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Volume 78, No. 139 ©SS 2019

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2019

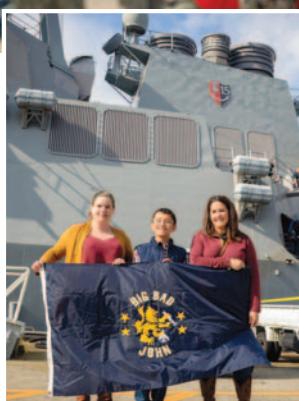
平成12年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 旗旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価￥50

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A sailor watches as the USS John S. McCain pulls away from Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Monday.

CAITLIN DOORNBOS/Stars and Stripes



CHRISTIAN LOPEZ/Stars and Stripes

From left, Christina Ellison and Mason and Jamie Peevy were on hand to watch their loved ones depart Yokosuka Naval Base on Monday.

Al-Baghdadi's death not the end of ISIS

BY ROBERT BURNS
AND ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Eliminating Islamic State's elusive leader gives President Donald Trump a new argument for leaving Syria, but the U.S. military campaign against the extremists is far from finished.

The killing of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi by U.S. forces leaves ISIS without an obvious leader, a major setback for an organization that in March was forced by American troops and Kurdish forces out of the last portion of its self-declared "caliphate," which once spanned a swath of Iraq and Syria.

■ Analysis: ISIS death gives Trump a timely win

Page 5

But the militant group,

arose from the remnants of al-Qaida in Iraq that group's defeat by U.S.-led forces in 2008, has ambitions to regenerate again. And it remains a dangerous threat in Iraq, Afghanistan and beyond.

"The bottom line is: This puts the enemy on its heels, but the ideology — and this sounds so clichéd — it is not dead," said Chris Costa, a former senior director for counterterrorism for the National Security Council in the Trump administration.

Key to ISIS is its "kill where you are" ethos, encouraging a far-flung network of followers, including those in the U.S., to commit violence however and wherever they can. That jihad message is likely to live on, even with the death of al-Baghdadi.

That means U.S. forces, perhaps in reduced numbers, will continue hunting and attacking key ISIS targets, even as Trump says he's committed to a 2016 campaign pledge to bring them home and end "endless wars" started under his predecessors.

SEE ISIS ON PAGE 4

Back to sea

USS John S. McCain sails out of Yokosuka for the first time since deadly '17 collision

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS John S. McCain sailed away from the Yokosuka pier about 10:15 a.m. Monday, its first trip to sea since suffering hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of damage during a fatal collision in 2017.

As the American flag shifted from aft to midship, signaling the ship was underway, families of the sailors who'd worked during the past two years to get the destroyer back to sea stood in awe.

"After all the repairs, they've been

working toward this. It's a sense of accomplishment," said Jamie Peevy, whose husband, Petty Officer 1st Class Robert Peevy, serves as a fire controlman on the ship. "We want them home, but they're sailors — they want to be at sea."

The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer is undergoing sea trials, a Navy term for a comprehensive set of at-sea testing of systems including "navigation, damage control, mechanical and electrical systems, combat systems, communications, and propulsion application," according to a Navy statement Monday.

SEE MCCAIN ON PAGE 3

MILITARY

Airmen can enlist indefinitely after 12 years' service

BY BRIAN FERGUSON
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force has approved indefinite enlistments for active-duty airmen with at least 12 years of service, the service's top enlisted leader said after an internal memo became public.

"Keep an eye out for the official announcement — and know that we are working for our airmen," Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaelth O. Wright said on his Facebook page Sunday.

Beginning Nov. 18, all airmen with at least 12 years of service at their date of discharge can re-enlist for an unspecified period,



Wright

extending their enlistment term to the year they must be promoted or face separation, also known as the high year tenure mark.

This eliminated the need to re-enlist every four to six years, according to a memo that first appeared on the Air Force amn/nco/sno Facebook page Oct. 23.

Airmen can apply to retire once



CORY W. BUSH/U.S. Air Force

Lt. Col. Kevin Welsh, U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron commander, conducts a reenlistment in Anchorage, Alaska, in 2018. Starting Nov. 18, airmen will be able to reenlist indefinitely after 12 years of service.

they become eligible or separate before then if they don't have a service commitment. Promoted airmen will have their service extended to the new rank's high year of tenure.

"We looked at this from all angles and see it as the right move for our team," Wright said in an email to Stars and Stripes on

Monday. "This change doesn't mean the end of bonuses or ceremonies that honor an Airman's commitment. It's what our officer corps has done for years and it just makes sense."

Those who accept retention bonuses must also accept additional service commitments, the memo said.

Wright has long advocated indefinite enlistments.

"I've been in the Air Force 28 years, almost 29," he said in 2017 at a conference in Orlando, Fla. "And every four years, I've got to go through the 'Yeah, I'm still here.'"

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Army guardsmen to be eligible for job credentialing funds

BY MARTIN EGNAH
Stars and Stripes

Army National Guardsmen will be eligible in January for a program designed to give soldiers a leg up in the civilian job market.

The Credentialing Assistance Program allows soldiers to receive additional training and take exams to earn licensings and other professional credentials required in many technical trades, an Army statement said.

"It can be that distinguisher when you are going for a job application or promotion, (or) competing next to other candidates," Kenneth Hardy, chief of the Army National Guard's education branch, said in an Oct. 22 statement.

This program is unique to the Army and is different than the Credentialing Opportunities On-Line programs offered by each branch of service.

Instead of offering credentials for military occupational specialty-based experience, it gives soldiers money to use for the

credentials of their choosing, regardless of their military job.

The program provides up to \$4,000 annually to pay for tuition, test fees and books.

The CAP has increased the number of programs a soldier can choose from the 28 that were offered in the testing phase last year to about 1,600 types of certifications. They include logistics technician and management credentials, certificates in the fields of fitness, food service and information technology, and licenses for commercial driving.

One of the most popular certifications for soldiers has been for personal training, Mike Engen, the education services officer at Fort Hood, Texas, said in a statement.

The program began at Fort Hood last year. The Army soon noted the large number of soldiers who wanted to take part in the program and began opening it to the rest of the service during the past year, the statement said.

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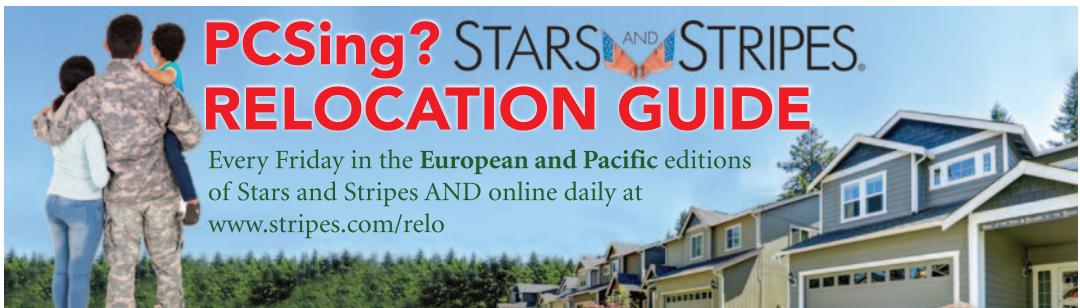
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MILITARY

McCain: After repairs completed, families worry about safety of the vessel

FROM FRONT PAGE

Sea trials typically last about a week and are required for every ship returning to sea after extended repairs or maintenance.

The McCain on Aug. 21, 2017, collided near Singapore with the Alnic MC, a commercial oil tanker, which impaled itself into the McCain's port side.

Confusion among watch standers led to a loss of steering control, and the destroyer crossed into the tanker's path, according to post-collision reports. The impact crumpled a berthing area and caused heavy flooding, killing 10 sailors.

Peevy said her family arrived in Yokosuka two years ago, just after the McCain collision happened.

"It was scary, like 'Oh this is the ship that my husband is going to be on?'" Peevy said.

Her friend, Christina Ellison, said some of that anxiety spilled into Monday as her husband, Petty Officer 2nd Class Zephriam Ellison, sailed away on the ship.

"There's always that little part of me that's uneasy," Christina Ellison said. "Is it ready?"

The McCain was the second U.S. destroyer involved in a fatal collision that summer. On June 17, the USS Fitzgerald collided with a Philippine-flagged container ship, the ACX Crystal, about 60 nautical miles southwest of Yokosuka. Seven sailors were killed in that incident.

The Fitzgerald has been undergoing repairs at Pascagoula, Miss., where it left dry dock in April. A return-to-sea date has not been announced.

'Big day'

The McCain's departure Monday means it has completed its necessary repairs and upgrades, which included about 11 months in dry dock. It has been undergoing additional maintenance and crew training while moored to the base pier since it left dry dock last November.

"Multiple upgrades to the ship's computer network, antenna systems, radar array, combat weapons systems and berthing have ensued. John S. McCain will return to operational missions with improved capability and lethality," the Navy said in its statement.

As the ship sailed away for the first time in two years, sailors, crews and contractors not on board flocked to the edge of the ship's berth to take photos with the destroyer. Cheers went up as two tugboats pulled away from the ship to leave it under its own power.

Former McCain commanding officer Cmdr. Micah Murphy, who now serves with Afloat Training Group Western Pacific, came to see the ship off.

"You got it!" he hollered to crews onboard as they prepared the McCain to leave its berth.

Murphy, who oversaw most of the McCain repairs while serving on the ship from December 2017 to July 2019, said he "wouldn't miss" the "big day."



JOSHUA FULTON/U.S. Navy

Portside damage is visible as the destroyer USS John S. McCain steers toward Changi Naval Base, Singapore, following a collision with a merchant vessel on Aug. 21, 2017.



CHRISTIAN LOPEZ/Stars and Stripes

A sailor watches as the USS John S. McCain prepares to lower the flag from its stern and raise it on the mast to signify that it's officially underway at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Monday.

"I wouldn't say it's closure, but it's a new beginning," he told Stars and Stripes. "This is the culmination of thousands of peoples' work. You can't name a Navy entity who hasn't touched a part of getting this crew together to go out and do what they're going to do today."

Murphy, reflecting on the work accomplished since the ship returned to Yokosuka severely

damaged in December 2017, said sailors had been looking forward to this moment for a long time.

"Naturally there's excitement, but a little anxiety," he said. "They're ready."

'Eager to get back'

The ship completed its in-port phase of training and will continue "basic phase" training at sea over the coming months "to

certify in every mission area the ship is required to perform and prepare for return to operational tasking," according to the Navy statement.

"This whole crew is eager to get back to sea, and that's evident in the efforts they've made over the last two years to bring the ship back to fighting shape and the energy they've put into preparing themselves for the rigors of at-sea

operations," Cmdr. Ryan Easterday, the McCain's commanding officer, said in the statement.

Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer, during the ship's re-commissioning in July 2018, told Stars and Stripes he expected it to return to sea in spring 2019. That timeline was moved to the fall. Murphy told an audience aboard the ship during a July 2 change-of-command ceremony attended by Cindy McCain, widow of the late U.S. Sen. John McCain, one of the ship's three namesakes.

In July, 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Joe Keiley said the ship's port shaft was misaligned "likely due to the August 2017 collision," causing a delay in the McCain's return to sea. At the time, he said repairs would be completed in October with remaining work continuing in the base's Ship Repair Facility in November.

On Monday, Keiley said the issue was corrected, enabling the 25-year-old McCain to steam away on Monday.

The destroyer is named after the late senator from Arizona and his father, grandfather, both Navy admirals. All three share the same name. The two elder McCains were both at the ceremony on Sept. 2, 1945, aboard the USS Missouri when Japan surrendered to the United States at the end of World War II.

It is one of six destroyers homeported in Yokosuka under the operation of the 7th Fleet.

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MIDEAST

US troops launched 'dangerous, daring' raid

BY DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — As President Donald Trump and senior advisers settled into the Situation Room on Saturday evening, elite U.S. forces more than 6,000 miles away launched one of the most significant counterterrorism operations in the campaign against Islamic State.

Taking off in eight helicopters from northern Iraq, the troops flew over hostile territory for hundreds of miles in the early Sunday morning darkness.

Their target, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the brutal founder and leader of ISIS, was holed up in a compound in northwestern Syria with family members and associates, and the United States had been watching him for days.

It was a tip from a disaffected ISIS militant that set the operation in motion, according to a U.S. official, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive operation.

What followed was what Trump called a "dangerous and daring nighttime raid" that was carried off "in grand style." It ended, he said, with al-Baghdadi fleeing from advancing U.S. forces into a dead-end tunnel and detonating a suicide vest, killing himself and three of his children.

"He didn't die a hero. He died a coward," the president said. "Crying, whimpering, screaming and bringing kids with him to die. Certain death."

Other U.S. officials declined to describe Baghdadi's state in his last moments.

The disaffected ISIS member had become an informant for Kurdish forces working with the Americans, the official said. He provided critical information on

al-Baghdadi's whereabouts.

The informant emerged in early summer, and over time U.S. officials became more confident in his credibility and reliability, the official said. Within the past couple of weeks, it became clear that, when put together with other information, the tip about al-Baghdadi's location was solid, the official said.

"It was a montage of a lot of pieces of intelligence that came together with a specific asset that was helpful," the official said.

How the operation — named for Kayla Mueller, an American aid worker who was abducted and raped repeatedly by al-Baghdadi before she was killed, according to U.S. officials — came together is still something of a mystery.

The troops included some Delta Force members, according to two U.S. officials, but other details, such as how they communicated with more senior commanders in Washington and beyond, and what weapons were involved, remain unknown.

But in colorful and at times taunting language, Trump revealed details Sunday morning of an operation that marks one of the major victories in the five-year U.S.-led campaign against ISIS.

Flying after midnight in the Middle East, the helicopters needed to cross airspace controlled by Iraq, Turkey and Russia, and U.S. officials told them they had an operation planned without providing details.

With the Russians in Syria, the Pentagon has called such communication "deconfliction" and said it has prevented accidents and mistaken intent by adversary forces.

When they arrived, they tried



GAITH ALSAYED/AP

A woman checks damage to her home in the village of Barisha, in Idlib province, Syria, on Sunday after an operation by the U.S. military which targeted Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the shadowy leader of ISIS.

to call al-Baghdadi out to see whether he would surrender. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said A couple of adults and 11 children came out, said one U.S. official with knowledge of the operation, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Al-Baghdadi remained inside, as U.S. officials assumed he might.

U.S. forces responded by blowing holes into the side of the compound in an effort to avoid booby-trapped doors, Trump said. Al-Baghdadi retreated into a tunnel and then detonated his vest.

Five enemy fighters were killed in the operation inside the compound, and others were killed outside, the White House said in a statement.

White House national security adviser Robert O'Brien, speaking in an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," said U.S. troops confirmed that al-Baghdadi was dead at 7:15 p.m. in Washington.

"The commander of the mission called and said, '100 percent confidence, jackpot ...' Got him. One hundred percent confidence jackpot, over," O'Brien said.

The remains of at least two wives were left behind. Trump said they had not detonated their

vests and were still wearing them, making it too risky for U.S. troops to dispose of the bodies.

"Less than 100" U.S. troops were on the ground in the raid, with more involved in a supporting role, Esper said.

Several kinds of aircraft were used in the operation, including CH-47 helicopters.

They came under fire early in the mission from "locals in the area," and the Americans returned fire in self-defense, he said.

Trump and other U.S. officials credited Syrian Kurdish forces with providing useful information.

ISIS: Death of al-Baghdadi a blow but it doesn't eliminate ISIS threat

FROM FRONT PAGE

Trump earlier this month went from declaring a near-complete withdrawal of U.S. forces from Syria to deciding that some, perhaps several hundred, must stay to keep eastern Syria's oil fields from falling back into the hands of ISIS. Trump also agreed to keep about 150 U.S. troops at a base in southern Syria.

In announcing on Sunday that al-Baghdadi had blown himself up after being cornered in a dead-end underground tunnel in Syria, Trump acknowledged that ISIS, which he often calls "100 percent" defeated, still has ambitions to make a comeback. The group is "very, very strongly looking to build it again," he said.

That, he said, explains why al-Baghdadi was in the Idlib province of northwestern Syria, an area largely controlled by a rival group — the al-Qaida-linked Hayat Tahrir al-Sham — although other jihadis groups sympathetic to ISIS are also there.

According to defense officials

"Well, that's where he was trying to rebuild from because that was the place that made most sense if you're looking to rebuild," Trump said.

Trump suggested that other countries, including Russia, carry on the fight against ISIS, but there is no indication that U.S. forces will abandon the mission anytime soon.

"Our job is to stay on top of that and to make sure that we continue to take out their leadership," Defense Secretary Mark Esper said on ABC's "This Week."

Rep. Mike Rogers, the ranking Republican on the House Homeland Security Committee, said five years of U.S. and coalition effort inside Syria have not eliminated the ISIS threat.

"While the death of its leader is a tremendous blow for the group, about 10,000 ISIS fighters remain in the region and will continue to carry out guerrilla attacks and seek new territory," he said.

According to defense officials

in Iraq and Afghanistan who study ISIS and have watched its movements, the group is growing in power and numbers outside of Syria.

Its flagship affiliate is known as ISIS-Khorasan in Afghanistan, and it is expanding into other countries, including Pakistan, Tajikistan, Iran, India, Bangladesh and Indonesia. Many of those affiliates have liaisons to the terrorist group's hub in eastern Afghanistan.

In addition to conducting high-profile attacks inside Afghanistan, the official said ISIS has also already proven its ability to inspire and enable terrorist attacks outside Afghanistan, including a deadly one in Syria.

"It is that global reach that makes ISIS a continuing worry, including for U.S. officials seeking to protect the homeland."

Al-Baghdadi served as a direct inspiration for extremists in the United States, where multiple jihadis in the last five years in-

voked his name as they carried out deadly acts of violence.

Omar Mateen, the gunman who in 2016 killed 49 people inside an Orlando, Fla., nightclub, pledged allegiance to al-Baghdadi during a 911 call in which he identified himself as an Islamic soldier. Months earlier, Tashfeen Malik, who along with her husband killed 14 people at a San Bernardino, Calif., holiday party, took to Facebook after her massacre was already underway to declare her support for al-Baghdadi.

"That voice, the face associated with it — the name in particular — it's all directly linked to those in the United States who have pledged allegiance to him so as to conduct attacks in the group's name," said Joshua Geltz, a former senior counterterrorism official in the Obama administration.

The death of al-Baghdadi leaves the group without an equally brand-name successor and derives would-be jihadis of a fig-

urehead leader to rally behind. Counterterrorism experts say that leadership void is a significant loss for a terrorist group that had lost the vast stretches of the physical caliphate in Syria and Iraq it had once controlled. But they also caution that they expect the group's ideology to endure beyond al-Baghdadi.

"I've always said, yes, I will celebrate when Baghda迪 is dead, but at the same time, that celebration is quiet and quick, because there are other Baghdadis out there who have been radicalized," said Costa, the former NSC official.

Still, Costa said, the raid was hugely significant in part because it shows the U.S. can use solid intelligence to carry out a successful military operation, no matter the current Syria policy.

"This impacts morale and that's an important idea — the fact that the enemy is on the run. We can track them, and we can hunt them, and we can kill them," he said.

MIDEAST

President offers graphic, boastful account of raid

Quintessential Trump on display as he announces ISIS leader's death

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The killing of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi gave President Donald Trump an undeniable national security triumph and also a much-needed political victory at the most precarious moment of his presidency.

Impeled by an impeachment inquiry and facing fierce criticism from within his own party, Trump reveled in the win Sunday, at first announcing the raid like so many of his predecessors, with solemnity for the mission in Syria and praise for the brave Americans and allies who carried it out.

As the minutes passed, he reverted to the president who has tried to redefine the office and how Americans view it, using graphic language and awkward ad-libs while dispensing criticism of his political foes, at home and abroad, and turning the triumph into a moment, more than anything, about Donald J. Trump himself.

Despite the Trumpian flourishes, the president's White House reveal of al-Baghdadi's death gave him a deserved-for-history image in place alongside Barack Obama's iconic announcement of the killing of Osama bin Laden. It also offered him a respite from the escalating impeachment in-

quiry and a ready-made line for this 2020 reelection campaign.

"The al-Baghdadi raid is a gold star for the Trump presidency. It was a lifeline to him because his poll numbers are tumbling and people think he's made significant foreign policy mistakes in the Middle East," said Douglas Brinkley, a presidential historian at Rice University. "Just when he is massively hemorrhaging, he is able to claim a foreign policy win. Impeachment will swirl around him but this is concrete."

The timing for Trump was fortuitous. His poll numbers have slipped since the initiation of the Democrats' impeachment inquiry into the request Trump made of Ukraine to investigate a political foe, leading to a parade of officials providing damaging testimony on Capitol Hill. Moreover, the raid comes against the backdrop of some of the most pointed criticism from his own party over his decision to pull most U.S. troops out of Syria.

"This allows him to say we can still succeed in Syria in light of all that has happened there in recent weeks because of his policy change," said Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Haass cautioned that because of the opaque nature of ISIS, al-Baghdadi's death was "not a transnational event" that would forever cripple the militant network. But he underscored that for the nation and for Trump, "it

was a good day because it sends the message that no enemy of the United States is safe."

In a national Sunday morning address that he had teased on Saturday night, Trump described the daring nighttime airborne raid by American special operations forces in Syria's northwestern Idlib province and said they flew over heavily militarized territory controlled by multiple nations and forces. He adopted the role of narrator, at one point marveling at the clarity of the video taken during the raid.

Presidents are often measured by how they handle such important national moments, the words they use becoming part of the permanent tableau of their time in office. When Trump hewed to his prepared remarks, he was in league with those who came before him. But when he diverted, when a moment of national resolve and triumph turned into just another riffing question-and-answer session, he risked diminishing what should have been a triumph.

As he so often does, Trump offered a commentary on the images that he just watched, gleefully narrating gruesome details about the militant leader's death.

"He ignited his vest, killing himself and the three children. His body was mutilated by the blast," Trump said. "The thing who tried so hard to intimidate others spent his last moments in utter fear, in total panic and



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

President Donald Trump speaks in the Diplomatic Room of the White House on Sunday to announce that Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed during a U.S. raid in Syria.

dread, terrified of the American forces bearing down on him."

Before long, the story was less about the raid and more about him. The targets of his grievances were familiar: Democrats, with whom he did not share information about the mission, as well European nations, many of which have defied his wishes and disagreed with his policies. He also, once more, compared himself to his immediate predecessor and boasted what he had done was greater.

"Osama bin Laden was very big, but Osama bin Laden became big with the World Trade Center," said Brinkley, before arguing that al-Baghdadi was a more lethal and important target. "This is a man who built a whole, as he would like to call it, a country, a caliphate, and was trying to do it again."

And while Obama spoke somberly for nine minutes and took no questions, Trump held forth for 48 minutes, answering question after question.

Widening the victory lap, administration officials fanned out

on the Sunday talk shows and the White House released a photo of Trump watching the raid, again drawing contrasts, perhaps some unintentional, with the bin Laden raid eight years earlier.

In the famous candid photo from the 2011 raid, Obama is sitting off to the side, gazing intently and anxiously at a screen while surrounded by a room full of advisers. In a seemingly posed photo tweeted out Sunday by White House social media director Dan Scavino, Trump sits dead center, staring directly into the camera lens.

"I saw a president that is just desperate for some accolades, just hungry for some sort of success. Instead of doing a clipped serious report on what occurred, he started heading into graphic 'TrumpLand' language to offer as much gritty detail as he could to get people to lean forward and listen," said Brinkley.

"The language was not what we are used to hearing from a president. But it was quintessential Trump."

ISIS: Timeline of a caliphate

BEIRUT — Key moments in the rise and fall of ISIS:

April 2013 — Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of al-Qaida's branch in Iraq, announces the merger of his group with al-Qaida's franchise in Syria, forming Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

2014

January — Al-Baghdadi's forces overrun the city of Fallujah in western Iraq and parts of the nearby provincial capital of Ramadi. In Syria, they seize sole control of the city of Raqa, and it becomes their de facto capital.

February — Al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri disavows al-Baghdadi after the Iraqi militia ignores his demands that ISIS leave Syria.

Aug. 8 — The U.S. launches its campaign of airstrikes against ISIS in Iraq.

Sept. 22 — The U.S.-led coalition begins an air campaign against ISIS in Syria.

2015

January — Iraqi Kurdish fighters, backed by U.S.-led airstrikes, drive ISIS out of several towns near Mosul. In Syria, Kurds backed by U.S. airstrikes repel an ISIS onslaught on Kobani, a town on the border with Turkey.

2016

Feb. 9 — Iraqi forces recapture Ra-

madi after months of fighting. Almost the entire population fled.

July 3 — ISIS sets off a gigantic suicide truck bomb outside a Baghdad shopping mall, killing almost 300 people, the deadliest attack in Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

2017

July 10 — Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi declares victory over ISIS in Mosul and the end of the extremists' caliphate in Iraq.

Oct. 17 — Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces takes full control of Raqa after months of heavy bombardment that devastates the city.

2018

Aug. 23 — Al-Baghdadi resurfaces in his first purported audio recording in almost a year, and he urges followers to continue fighting.

2019

March 23 — SDF declares the complete capture of Baghouz and the end of ISIS' territorial "caliphate."

Oct. 27 — President Donald Trump says al-Baghdadi died Saturday after a nighttime airborne raid by American special operations forces in Syria when he detonated a suicide vest in a tunnel while running away.

— The Associated Press

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MILITARY/MIDEAST

Iwakuni neighbors awarded \$6.8M over aircraft noise

By JAMES BOLINGER
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — The Hiroshima High Court awarded nearly \$6.8 million on Friday to residents living near MCAS Iwakuni as compensation for aircraft noise, a higher amount than a lower court allowed in 2015, according to Japanese government officials.

The award — the latest in a 10-year-old lawsuit — benefits 653 residents living near the air base who say they suffered from the noise.

A variety of jets are flown out of the base. They include the Marine Corps' fifth-generation stealth fighter, the F-35B Lightning II, and the FA-18 Hornet and the Navy's FA-18 Super Hornet. The number of aircraft at Iwakuni increased as the U.S. Navy transferred its Carrier Air Wing 5 from Naval Air Facility Atsugi, south of Tokyo, a process that concluded last year.

According to a 2014 noise study by the Department of Defense, both aircraft types can produce about 145 decibels. By comparison, a gas-powered lawn mower 3 feet away produces about 100 decibels; a 747-400 commercial airliner on takeoff produces about 110 decibels heard 2 miles away, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

The Hiroshima High Court added about \$1.6 million on top of the ruling from four years ago, officials said. The additional compensation covers the period between the lower court's decision and the high court ruling on Friday, said Junko Otsuki, a spokesman for the plaintiffs.

The court also awarded additional compensation to those living in areas with above-average aircraft noise levels, Otsuki said Monday.

The Japanese government said it will carefully review the court's decision and decide whether it will appeal to the nation's supreme court, Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau Director General Haruo Morita said in a statement.

"The Ministry of Defense will continue to consider the aircraft noise impact on the residents and will ask the U.S. side to do the same," Morita said.

Despite the monetary increase, the high court upheld the lower court's decision rejecting residents' demands for compensation for future noise damages, Otsuki said.

Judges also rejected a request to ban flight operations by U.S. and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force aircraft between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. at the air base, she said.

"We are fully committed to our Alliance role, and the entirety of our training directly supports our obligations under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Se-

curity," Maj. Joshua Diddams, a spokesman for MCAS Iwakuni, told Stars and Stripes in an email Monday.

"There are a number of measures we take to mitigate the impact on those surrounding the air station," he wrote. "Making every effort to honor our normal airfield hours, limiting flights during especially noisy sensitive events near our flight operation areas; conducting straight-in full-stop measures when appropriate; and flying above minimum required altitudes are all examples of everyday efforts we make to mitigate the impact of our training."

The residents filed the first lawsuit over aircraft noise at MCAS Iwakuni in 2009. They sought about \$5.4 million in compensation, saying their lives and health had been affected by noise from the nearby airfield.

The lawsuit demanded compensation for past and future suffering, a ban on flight operations at night and early morning and suspension of the Navy's relocation of Carrier Air Wing 5 from Atsugi to Iwakuni.

The air wing supports the USS Ronald Reagan, which is homeported at Yokosuka Naval Base. MCAS Iwakuni is also home to Marine Air Group 12 and JMSDF Fleet Wing 31.

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HADI MIZBAN/AP

Iraqi protests

An injured protester is rushed to a hospital during a demonstration in Baghdad on Monday. At least two anti-government protesters were killed and 105 were wounded in clashes with security forces as thousands of students joined mass protests in defiance of a government order.

Deaths at Offutt base being looked at as murder-suicide

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

week following the deaths.

"I was unaware of any signs this incident was coming," he said.

Zachary Firlik was a 17-year veteran of the Air Force and an assistant flight chief assigned to the 55th Security Forces Squadron at Offutt since April 25. The couple previously lived at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, then Travis Air Force Base in California. Since March, the couple had been near the shooter.

Members of the Offutt Security Force believed the deaths were a murder-suicide, according to an affidavit filed with the Sarpy County District Court seeking a search warrant for the home of Tech. Sgt. Zachary Firlik, 35, and his wife Kari, 35, who were found dead Sept. 9 in the house. The document filed with the court is dated Oct. 4 and it does not indicate which spouse is suspected to be the shooter.

A spokeswoman for the Air Force Office of Investigations at Offutt, which is leading the investigation, declined to comment Monday because the investigation is ongoing.

The Firlik's home is part of the Rising View community, a section of which is base housing and located west of the main military installation in the Omaha suburb of Bellevue. Because the deaths occurred off base, county law enforcement also responded to the incident.

A child in the house called 9-1-1 about 8:30 p.m. about the shooting, according to the court documents. The Omaha World-Herald reported it was the Firlik's 5-year-old daughter who ran to a neighbor's house to call the police after hearing gunshots.

After searching the home, Sarpy County investigators found a black, six-shot Taurus revolver, four spent bullet casings and two rounds in the upstairs master bedroom near the two bodies.

The Firliks had been married for seven years, Kari's father, Jerry McManigal, said in the

[Twitter: @Rose_Lori](https://twitter.com/Rose_Lori)

USAF rules that aircrews who lodged at Trump resort did not violate rules

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Air Force crews who stayed at President Donald Trump's Scotland golf resort during flight layovers did not violate any service rules, according to a military review into whether taxpayer dollars were misused when commanders lodged at the seaside hotel.

The Air Mobility Command launched its review after reports emerged earlier this year that personnel stopped at Prestwick Airport on overseas missions and slept at Trump's Turnberry Resort more than 30 miles away.

The situation sparked complaints from numerous Democratic lawmakers, who have called for an independent probe into Trump properties amid allegations the president is unfairly profiting from government use of his businesses.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., in a statement to Politico, said the Air Force review was "stunningly inadequate" and called for an inspector general probe.

The Pentagon said in a letter sent to the House Oversight Committee that it spent about \$184,000 at the resort between 2017 and this past summer, NBC News reported last month.

But the Air Force said shifting some flights near Trump's resort in Scotland was in line with regulations and "military necessity."

"No evidence was found to suggest use of airfields or specific lodging locations was inconsistent with the imperatives to maintain ... the air mobility system in support of national military objectives," the Air Mobility review stated.

However, the Air Force acknowledged that commanders would benefit from additional training that took into account "public perception" when making lodging choices.

While the Air Force has military airfields it can use, it also depends on civilian sites to round out its network and to ensure planes are refueled and missions completed.

The Air Force says there was nothing unusual about using the airfield at Prestwick, as it has

since the 1948 Berlin Airlift and the Cold War. The airport is "also ideally suited along the route of flight to and from Europe and the Middle East," the review stated.

"While military planners would prefer to route missions through military airfield hubs like RAF Mildenhall, Ramstein Air Base, or Spangdahlem Air Base, these military airfields have restrictive hours during which the airfield is open," the report said.

The review found that most aircrews — 77% over a five-year period — stayed in hotels near the airport. Meanwhile, 31 aircrews, or 6%, stayed at Trump's facility during the same period.

It found commanders lodged at the Turnberry "only after other locations closer to the Prestwick Airport were determined to be unavailable based on the requirements of the aircrew."

The Air Force, in a statement Friday, said the review also found existing military regulations on the selection of civil airfields for military use and lodging of aircrews to be sufficient.

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Kari Firlik's family in Nebraska.

Originally from Sacramento, Calif., Zachary Firlik's family buried him Oct. 9 in Lake Havasu, Ariz., according to his obituary.

Four days prior, Kari Firlik's family buried her in Blair, Neb., according to her obituary.

McManigal said he was very close to his daughter. She worked in his dental office as an insurance coordinator and was working on a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity.

"She bragged about Zach being military police often and I was so happy for her," McManigal said. "I didn't know Zach as well because he was mostly quiet when he was around me, but he showed pride in being an Air Force member and he took his job very seriously and much of his off-duty persona reflected that pride."

McManigal is now caring for the Firlik's daughter, as well as his daughter's two older children, ages 17 and 12, according to a GoFundMe webpage raising money for the children's care.

[Twitter: @Rose_Lori](https://www.gofundme.com/campaign/raise-money-for-the-firlik-family)

MILITARY

Engineering marvel now poses challenge

Navy's underground fuel tanks in Hawaii need upgrade to protect area water; it won't be easy

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The 20 massive tanks that make up the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility on the outskirts of Honolulu are an engineering marvel.

Embedded deep in a volcanic mountain in the early years of World War II, the tanks can hold a quarter-billion gallons of fuel to feed the ships, submarines and aircraft at nearby Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The future of the facility, a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark since 1995, is at a crossroads. The Navy proposes a multimillion-dollar improvement plan to extend its life for at least another 25 years, but the tanks, entombed in volcanic rock, defy any feasible method of retrofitting. Conservationists and some civic leaders say the massive amount of fuel it stores poses a threat to Honolulu's water supply and that the facility must be made fail-safe or be entirely abandoned.

"The Red Hill fuel facility is a critical national security asset," Read Adm. Robert Chadwick, commander of Navy Region Hawaii, said during a public hearing earlier this month.

"It provides the daily fuel requirements here in Hawaii for our Navy, Air Force and Hawaii National Guard, and it also provides strategic reserves for our joint forces throughout the Indo-Pacific theater," Chadwick said. "This is at a time when our potential adversaries around the world continue to be more and more aggressive."

The tanks, however, were built over a vast aquifer that supplies drinking water to greater Honolulu, and the risk the tanks pose became clear in 2014 when about 27,000 gallons of jet fuel spilled from one. There have been numerous other smaller leaks during the past couple decades, and petroleum-based chemicals have been detected in groundwater monitoring wells.

In 2015, the Navy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Hawaii public health officials signed an enforcement agreement directing the cleanup of the leak.

The so-called administrative order of consent also required the Navy, along with the Defense Logistics Agency, to research and evaluate upgrades to the existing tanks to minimize the threat of future leaks.

In September, the Navy and DLA proposed several possible upgrades, including the removal and replacement of the existing inner steel liner, creation of a double wall for each tank or insertion of entirely new tanks within the existing ones.

The Navy's preferred upgrade, based on what it calls the "best available practicable technology," would consist of coating the inside of the tanks and eliminating the number of nozzles on the system, which are particularly vulnerable to leaks. It would also step up testing and monitoring on the layers of rock, concrete and steel that separate tanks from the aquifer.

The document touted the \$162 million Defense Department has spent improving Red Hill since 2015, with another \$256 million slated for improvements over the next five years.



SHANNON HANEY/U.S. Navy

A tunnel is shown inside the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility in Hawaii.

Some residents and Hawaiian officials are overwhelmed by the Navy's plan.

"Basically, the Navy has chosen the least protective, least costly and least ambitious option," Jodi Malinoski, a policy advocate with Sierra Club, said during a public hearing Oct. 17 at the Hawaii Capitol.

"We're calling for the Department of Health and EPA to reject this report and to essentially direct the Navy to relocate their tanks to locations that are not above our aquifer," she said.

At the same hearing, the aquifer was described as "irreplaceable" by Ernie Lau, chief engineer with the Honolulu Board of Water Supply.

"We want to support the Navy mission, but we think it can be done in other ways and other alternatives," he said.

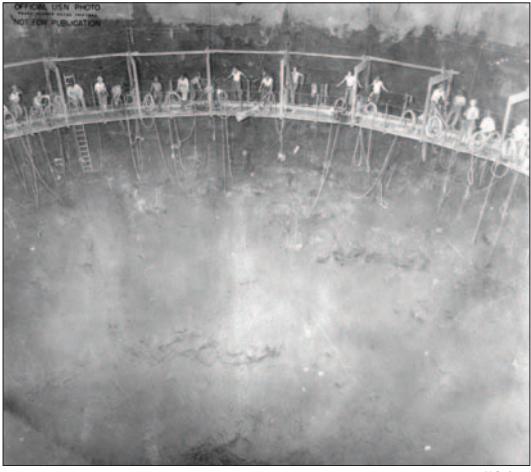
'Remarkable' engineering feat

The Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility was conceived in a shroud of secrecy at the cusp of World War II, according to documents supporting its nomination as a landmark.

As military confrontation with Japan loomed in the late 1930s, the U.S. Navy recognized that the above-ground fuel tanks scattered around Pearl Harbor would be vulnerable to attack.

Initial plans called for burying four 300,000-barrel storage tanks, each about 1,100 feet long and 20 feet wide. They would be set horizontally deep into the earth, far out of reach by enemy aircraft.

The site chosen to bury the tanks, Red Hill, was a long ridge of volcanic rock stretching from Oahu's Koolau mountain



A photo taken in 1942 shows miners standing on scaffolding as they work on one of the 20 caverns constructed for fuel tanks at Red Hill.

range and almost reaching Pearl Harbor. The buried tanks would sit high enough in the mountain that fuel would flow by gravity to the naval base.

By the time project designing began, the Navy had expanded the number of tanks needed to 20, and engineers began preparing for the massive amount of rock that would need to be blasted and scooped out of the mountain.

Consulting engineer James Growden is credited with the design for placing the 20 tanks vertically into the mountain instead—an idea he first sketched out on a cocktail napkin at a Waikiki hotel, according to the lore.

Excavating horizontal tunnels of loosened rock is time-consuming and requires many workers and heavy machinery, all crammed into a tight space.

Growden's design instead called for boring a hole from the top of the mountain down through the imaginary centerline of a tank. A horizontal shaft would be bored at the base of the mountain and connected to the vertical shaft.

Excavation would then begin at the top, and every shovelful of dirt and rock would be tossed down the bore to a conveyor belt far below that whisked the material to a nearby aggregate plant. The design required fewer workers and significantly cut costs and construction time.

Nearly 3,000 men worked around the clock for almost three years before completing the project in September 1942, which the landmark nomination described as "one of the most remarkable engineering feats of World War II." Seventeen workers died getting it built.

The 20 tanks — each 100 feet wide and roughly 250 feet high — stand in two rows of 10. Their tops are 100 to 175 feet below ground.

'Unfortunately, the Red Hill tanks are quite unusual — much taller and larger than what you usually see. So, a lot of technologies that were designed for shorter, above-ground tanks that have much lower pressure on them can't be used at Red Hill.'

Steven Linder
EPA's underground storage tank program

'It just won't work'

Critics of the Red Hill fuel tanks have for years urged the Navy to retrofit them to ensure they will be leak-proof. But the tank system's greatest strength — its impregnability to outside force — also makes adding a buffer layer near impossible.

Steven Linder, a program manager for the EPA's underground storage tank program, said at a public hearing earlier this month that both the EPA and Navy had brought in industry experts, including one who formerly managed Chevron's fuel storage, to review technologies for retrofitting.

"Unfortunately, the Red Hill tanks are quite unusual — much taller and larger than what you usually see," he said. "So, a lot of technologies that were designed for shorter, above-ground tanks that have much lower pressure on them can't be used at Red Hill. It just won't work."

"These tanks are mined into the mountain, into solid rock, over a huge area. There's no technologies that allow us to basically get in there and around these tanks to make the area around the tanks impermeable."

The administrative order of consent requires all the tanks be upgraded to the "best available technology" by the year 2037 or no longer hold any fuel by that time, Linder said.

The EPA is now considering the Navy's proposal to extend that deadline to 2045, he said.

Critics say there is too much risk to wait that long.

The Honolulu City Council is set to vote Nov. 6 on a resolution calling for either an upgrade using a secondary containment tank or, if that is not feasible, relocating fuel storage to somewhere away from the aquifer.

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply has voiced strong support for the resolution.

"Everything fails no matter how much upgrading you do, no matter how much inspection you do," Melanie Lau, a member of the state's Fuel Tank Advisory Committee, said at the Capitol hearing.

"I can understand how the Navy would want to hold onto something that they have; it's wonderful, great," she said. "However, we only have one aquifer. We live on an island. We don't have a choice."

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NATION

FAA pushes ahead with plan to further reduce oversight

By MICHAEL LARIS,
IAN DUNCAN
AND LORI ARATANI
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Federal Aviation Administration's deferential, industry-friendly approach to oversight allowed Boeing to submit documentation that obscured the dangers of its 737 Max, which was involved in two deadly crashes, documents, interviews and the findings of investigations show.

However, instead of trying to reclaim its oversight powers after the deaths of 346 people over the past year, the FAA has been pressing ahead with plans to further reduce its hands-on oversight of aviation safety, current and former officials said.

The FAA has been pushing for changes intended to speed approval on critical safety questions and remake regulations using "voluntary consensus standards," interviews and documents show. That could result in outsourcing policymaking on airplane safety to industry groups outside the public's view, experts said.

Critics inside and outside government say the FAA's oversight system, which relies heavily on a structure known as Organization Designation Authorization (ODA), presents a fox-guarding-the-henhouse scenario, arguing that the FAA's history of delegating far-reaching oversight powers to Boeing essentially gave the company an opportunity to cut corners on safety, with deadly consequences. An internal Department of Transportation watchdog has repeatedly reported shortcomings in the FAA's oversight of its own oversight system.

The FAA gives Boeing employees the job of finding whether the company has met minimum FAA safety standards for its airplanes.

But the agency often does not receive the information it would need from Boeing to make many crucial judgments about safety, a group of U.S. and international aviation safety experts said. And in many cases, agency officials don't ask for it, current and former FAA officials said.

Key agency officials lacked critical information about the automated feature on the 737 Max that investigators say contributed to two crashes within five months, one in Indonesia and one in Ethiopia, according to the group, which was convened by the FAA and led by Christopher Hart, former chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

Under its oversight system, the FAA failed to catch several major safety breaches, according to Indonesian investigators who

Friday issued their final report on the Oct. 29 Lion Air crash in Indonesia that killed 189 people.

Despite the oversight failures with the Max, FAA leaders have pressed ahead with plans that would increase industry sway over certification and move the agency toward rolling back existing rules, interviews and documents show.

"Aviation safety within the Federal Aviation Administration will be enhanced by reducing the number of regulations, and focusing on the achievement of performance standards," according to an agency strategic plan covering 2019 through 2022.

That is a reference to plans being overseen by top FAA officials, several of whom came to the agency from stints representing industry, to overhaul the vast body of federal regulations that set minimum safety standards for large passenger planes.

Boeing and other manufacturers have often chafed at the regulations, arguing that they can be cumbersome without adding to safety, and have lobbied against making them more stringent and for more influence over how they must be followed.

The FAA said it is pushing ahead with a "transformation" of its certification operation. Part of that is a major and ongoing reorganization of its offices responsible for certification. Some FAA officials said the new structure is expected to be used to spur the further delegation of oversight authority from the FAA to Boeing as instructed by Congress last year.

Current and former FAA officials, most of whom requested anonymity to speak freely regarding internal agency disputes, said FAA leaders are pushing to enhance industry sway and further reduce hands-on oversight at precisely the moment the FAA should be reemphasizing such work.

An FAA engineer said agency staff had been briefed in all-hands meetings about the reorganization. He said the changes have been presented as a way to ensure the FAA's approval process isn't a "bottleneck" for the industry.

"The reason they keep giving is they need to get certification out of the path of the companies' ability to complete projects," said the engineer, who stressed that he was speaking for himself and not on behalf of the agency or his union.

He called the organizational changes and move toward more industry-driven safety standards a "very dangerous path for public safety."



DARRELL SAPP, PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/AP

Unscheduled stop

Authorities investigate after a Port Authority bus was caught in a sinkhole in downtown Pittsburgh on Monday. The Port Authority of Allegheny County said the lone passenger was being treated for minor injuries. The bus driver was not injured. The agency tweeted that the bus was at a red light when the street gave way.

Pallbearer at Cummings' funeral explains his snub of McConnell

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., cocked his right arm, ready to deliver a handshake. A man in a navy suit, who had been working his way down the line of leaders gathered for the late Rep. Elijah Cummings's memorial Thursday at the Capitol, was fast approaching.

Instead of stopping to acknowledge McConnell, though, video showed the man walking straight past the Republican senator to address House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. While the man and Pelosi chatted, a stoic McConnell stared ahead, clasping his hands in front of him.

This fleeting moment, immortalized in a now-viral clip, prompted many to dub the man — later identified as Bobby Rankin, a close friend of Cummings — as their "hero" for casting "well-deserved shade" at McConnell. By early Monday, the 16-second video had been watched nearly 6 million times.

While many assumed that Rankin had acted out of loyalty to Cummings, the longtime legislator from Maryland who had clashed repeatedly with President Donald Trump before his death on Oct. 17, he told *The Washington Post* his reasons were much more personal.

"When I saw Mitch McConnell, all I saw was my brother's face," said Rankin, 64, of Charlotte, N.C., one of Cummings' pallbearers.

Rankin's brother, Jerry, died last October from cancer after being exposed to contaminated water

while serving in the Marines at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. Jerry did not receive the veterans' benefits he was owed before he died, Rankin said — and he blamed McConnell in part for that family tragedy.

"Elijah Cummings reached across party lines trying to help my brother get his military benefits, and Mitch McConnell was one of the persons he reached out to," Rankin said.

McConnell did not respond to multiple requests for comment on Rankin's claims.

Rankin said his brother was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a cancer that causes malignant cells to accumulate in bone marrow, more than a decade ago, after leaving the Marines. Multiple myeloma is one of 15 health conditions linked to Camp Lejeune's tainted drinking water, which contained industrial solvents, benzene and other chemicals for roughly 30 years beginning in the 1950s, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

On Thursday, Rankin said his brother was already on his mind when he spotted McConnell. Rankin wasn't clear about exactly why his brother didn't receive VA benefits or McConnell's precise role in Jerry's battle to get them after his cancer returned in 2016.

"I could not put my hands in the man's hand who refused to help somebody who served his country," Rankin said, later adding, "I couldn't do it, because I was thinking about my brother."

Teachers' strike cancels classes for 8th day

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A teachers' strike has canceled classes for an eighth day in Chicago, hours after the school district announced a tentative agreement with a separate union representing thousands of school support staff.

The district and the Chicago

Teachers Union reported some progress late last week but talks stalled over the weekend.

Both sides say they remain at odds over demands for smaller class sizes and more staff.

Officials for the union representing 7,500 staff members, including security guards and classroom aides, said Sunday that

they won't be returning to work until striking teachers do.

Details of the tentative agreement between the district and the Service Employees International Union have not been released.

A union spokesman didn't reply to a message Monday asking when members will vote on the offer.

NATION

Firefighters battle flames in LA, wine country

By TERENCE CHEA
AND DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SANTA ROSA, Calif. — Firefighters battled destructive wildfires in Northern California wine country and on the west side of Los Angeles on Monday, trying to beat back flames that forced tens of thousands to flee their homes.

California's biggest utility, Pacific Gas & Electric, cut off power to an estimated 2.5 million people in the northern part of the state over the weekend in yet another round of blackouts aimed at preventing windblown electrical equipment from sparking more fires. And more shut-offs are possible in the next few days.

The fire that broke out last week amid Sonoma County's vineyards and wineries north of San Francisco grew to at least 103 square miles, destroying 94 buildings, including 40 homes, and threatening 80,000 more structures, authorities said. Nearly 200,000 people were under evacuation orders, mostly from the city of Santa Rosa.

In Southern California, the blaze on the west side of Los Angeles erupted before dawn Monday and roared up slopes into wealthy neighborhoods, threatening thousands of homes. Tens of thousands of people were ordered to clear out.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said that the fire had grown to 500 acres and that he had seen five burned homes. Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas said he expects the number of homes destroyed to climb.



CHRISTIAN MONTEROSA/AP

A man walks past a burning home during the Getty fire Monday in Los Angeles. Wildfires are burning in Northern California's wine country and on the west side of Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Lakers basketball star LeBron James tweeted that he and his family had to evacuate their home in the city's exclusive Brentwood section. There was no immediate word on its fate.

"I pray for all the families in the area that could be affected," he tweeted. "Pretty please get to safety ASAP."

Night-flying helicopters made

water drops before daybreak, and airplanes dropping water and fire retardant joined the battle after the sun came up.

Mount St. Mary's University evacuated 450 students from its Chalon campus near the Getty Center arts and cultural complex.

The Getty was built with special fire protection features, and Los Angeles fire Capt. Erik Scott said

it was not threatened.

Fire conditions statewide have made California a "tinderbox," said Jonathan Cox, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency over the weekend.

The biggest evacuation was in Sonoma County, where some peo-

ple who were packing up and fleeing Sunday had done so two years ago when devastating wildfires swept through Sonoma, Napa and neighboring counties, killing 44 people.

At an evacuation center at Napa Valley College, Francisco Alvarado, 15, said he, two younger brothers and his parents decided to leave their Calistoga home in advance of evacuation orders. Two years ago, the family had to flee, but in the middle of the night.

"I'm pretty mad that we have to keep evacuating," he said. "I just want to be home. I'm trying to leave here tomorrow; I want to sleep in my bed."

Hundreds of people arrived at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa by Sunday. Some came from nursing homes. More than 300 people slept in an auditorium filled with cots and wheeled beds. Scores of others stayed in a separate building with their pets.

Among them was Maribel Cruz, 19, who packed up her dog, four cats and fish as soon as she was told to leave her trailer in the town of Windsor, about 60 miles north of San Francisco. She also grabbed a neighbor's cat.

"I'm just nervous since I grew up in Windsor," she said. "I'm hoping the wind cooperates."

A historic attraction outside Healdsburg was lost Sunday when embers carried by wind sparked a blaze that engulfed the Soda Rock Winery. The buildings included a general store and post office founded in 1869.

Pine cone collectors work to restore fire-ravaged forests

By SUSAN MONToya BRYAN
Associated Press

ALONG THE BURNT MESA TRAIL, N.M. — With snow ready to fall, the scramble was on to collect as many ponderosa pine cones as possible.

A crew outfitted with spurs, ropes and hard hats scaled hefty tree trunks and used long clippers to snip branches loaded with the prickly orbs.

The cones being gathered in the Jemez Mountains of northern New Mexico represent the fruits of a bumper crop. Every decade or so, the trees turn out more seeds to ensure future propagation as a hedge against hungry predators and whatever other hurdles nature might throw at the species.

The cones will be dried, their seeds cleaned, sorted and grown into seedlings that can be used to reforest fire-scarred hillsides. Similar work is ongoing in Colorado, South Dakota and other places in the U.S. West.

With warmer temperatures, more frequent drought and the severity of wildfires on the rise, scientists say seed collection and reforestation efforts are becoming more important.

"We've had so many large,



PHOTOS BY SUSAN MONToya BRYAN/AP

Above: A partially open ponderosa pine cone sits in a tree at Bandelier National Monument near Los Alamos, N.M., where cone seeds are being collected to help restore forests following wildfires. Left: Steven Sandoval, with Santa Clara Pueblo's forestry department, explains the attributes needed for a viable ponderosa pine seed.

high-severity fires in the state, and without our intervention there is a possibility that some of those areas will never be forest again," said Sarah Hertweck with The Nature Conservancy in New Mexico. "What we're trying to do is collect the seed to help reforest these areas. This is a huge effort."

The goal is 1 million seeds.

It might sound lofty, but those helping with the project in New Mexico and southern Colorado are looking to take advantage of a rare bumper crop this fall that has resulted from back-to-back summer and winter seasons of average to above-average rain and snow. That doesn't happen often in the arid Southwest, and scientists say it could become

more infrequent as the climate changes.

Kyle Rodman, a post-doctoral research assistant at the University of Colorado Boulder, studied the density of seedlings that sprouted following fires between 1988 and 2010. In a study published this month, he and his colleagues found the absence of viable seeds can drastically ham-

per a forest's ability to recover and that some burned areas were more vulnerable than others.

"The ability of trees to produce seed has a huge implication for natural recovery," he said. "If the seed is not being produced, then it can't get to the places that are disturbed, then the chances for the ecosystem to recover to that forested state are obviously pretty low."

In comes Steven Sandoval and his forestry crew from Santa Clara Pueblo, one of dozens of partners in the seed collecting effort. Sandoval's crew has been charged with scouting parts of Bandelier National Monument to locate those ponderosa stands with the greatest potential.

It is labor- and time-intensive, but necessary, said Meredith Prentice who leads a seed crew with the Ecological Restoration Institute.

"There's a lot of catastrophic elements like wildfire and drought," she said. "It's being exacerbated by climate change, and so the pool of native species that we're able to get seed from is shrinking because their environments are getting destroyed."

NATION

Long-serving black lawmaker Conyers dies

By COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press

Detroit — Former U.S. Rep. John Conyers, one of the longest-serving members of Congress whose resolutely liberal stance on civil rights made him a political institution in Washington and back home in Detroit despite several scandals, has died at 90.

Conyers, among the high-profile politicians torpedored by sex harassment allegations in 2017, died at his home on Sunday, said Detroit police spokesman Cpl. Dan Donakowski. The death "looks like natural causes," Donakowski added.

Known as the dean of the Congressional Black Caucus, which he helped found, Conyers became one of only six black House members when he won his first election by just 108 votes in 1964. The race was the beginning of more than 50 years of election dominance. Conyers regularly won elections with more than 80% of the vote, even after his wife went to prison for taking a bribe.

That voter loyalty helped Conyers freely speak his mind. He

took aim at both Republicans and fellow Democrats. He said then-President George W. Bush "has been an absolute disaster for the African American community" in 2004, and in 1979 called then-President Jimmy Carter "a hopeless, demented, honest, well-intentioned nerd who will never get past his first administration."

Throughout his career, Conyers used his influence to push civil rights.

After a 15-year fight, he won passage of legislation declaring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a national holiday, first celebrated in 1986. He regularly introduced a bill starting in 1989 to study the harm caused by slavery and the possibility of reparations for slaves' descendants. That bill never got past a House subcommittee.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson said Sunday that without Conyers there would be no King holiday "no doubt about that."

"He was one of the most consequential congressmen," Jackson said.

His district office in Detroit employed civil rights legend Rosa



Then-Rep. John Conyers uses a bullhorn to encourage blacks in Detroit's riot area to go home on July 23, 1967. The former congressman died at his home on Sunday at age 90.

AP

Parks from 1965 until her retirement in 1988. In 2005, Conyers was among 11 people inducted to the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame.

But after a nearly 53-year career, he became the first Capitol Hill politician to lose his job in the torrent of sexual misconduct allegations sweeping through the nation's workplaces. A former staffer alleged she was fired because she rejected his sexual advances, and others said they'd witnessed Conyers inappropriately touching female staffers or

requesting sexual favors.

He denied the allegations but eventually stepped down, citing health reasons.

"My legacy can't be compromised or diminished in any way by what we're going through now," Conyers told a Detroit radio station from a hospital where he'd been taken after complaining of lightheadedness in December 2017.

Conyers was born and grew up in Detroit, where his father, John Conyers Sr., was a union organizer in the automotive industry and

an international representative with the United Auto Workers union. He insisted that his son, a jazz aficionado from an early age, not become a musician.

The younger Conyers heeded the advice, but jazz remained, he said, one of his "great pleasures." He sponsored legislation to forgive the \$1.6 million tax debt of band leader Woody Herman's estate and once kept a standup bass in his Washington office.

Along with his wife, Monica Conyers, he is survived by two sons, John III and Carl.

Ex-official won't testify in impeachment probe without order

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A former White House national security official defied a House subpoena Monday, prompting the Democrat leading the impeachment probe to declare that President Donald Trump's administration is "building a powerful case" for his impeachment.

Charles Kupperman, who was a deputy to former national security adviser John Bolton, failed to show up for a scheduled closed-door deposition Monday after asking a federal court in Washington for guid-

ance on whether he was legally required to do so.

House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff said Kupperman's suit has "no basis in law" and speculated that the White House didn't want him to testify because his testimony could be incriminating. Democrats are investigating Trump's overtures to the Ukrainian government to pursue politically motivated investigations as the administration was also withholding military aid to the country.

"If this witness had something to say that would be helpful to the White House

they would've wanted him to come and testify," Schiff told reporters Monday. "They plainly don't."

Kupperman was scheduled to testify as impeachment investigators are returning to the White House in their probe. A series of State Department officials have testified this month about their concerns as Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, took charge of Ukrainian policy and as Trump pushed out the U.S. ambassador to

Democrats are now looking to hear from staff to the National Security Council, who

they hope will have insight into White House discussions as the aid was withheld. Two current staffers, Alexander vindman and Tim Morrison, are also scheduled to appear this week.

Schiff said the three committees leading the inquiry will move on even if the witnesses don't show up. Democrats have indicated that they are more likely to use that evidence to write an article of impeachment on obstruction of justice than they are to engage in court battles.

California Rep. Katie Hill resigns amid ethics inquiry into misconduct

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Freshman Rep. Katie Hill, a rising Democratic star in the House, announced her resignation amid an ethics probe, saying explicit private photos of her with a campaign staffer had been "weaponized" by her husband and political operatives.

The California Democrat, 32, had been hand-picked for a coveted leadership seat. But in recent days, compromising photos of Hill and purported text messages from her to a campaign staffer

surfaced online in a right-wing publication and a British tabloid.

The House ethics committee also had launched an investigation into whether Hill had an inappropriate relationship with an aide in her congressional office, which is prohibited under House rules. Hill, one of the few openly bisexual women in Congress, had denied that and vowed to fight a "smear" campaign waged by a husband she called abusive.

But her relationship with the campaign aide became a concern for House Democrats who have

made equality in the workplace a particular priority. On Sunday, after apologizing for the relationship with a subordinate, Hill announced she was stepping aside.

"It is with a broken heart that today I announce my resignation from Congress," she wrote in a statement released Sunday.

"Having private photos of personal moments weaponized against me has been an appalling invasion of my privacy. It's also illegal, and we are currently pursuing all of our available legal options," she added. "However, I

know that as long as I am in Congress, we'll live fearful of what might come next and how much it will hurt."

Hill's statement provided no details on that or when she would step down. Hill's office and campaign provided no additional public comment.

Her abrupt fall came after a blazing rise in which she won the last Republican-held House seat anchored in Los Angeles County, part of a rout that saw GOP House members driven out of their seats in Southern California.

Nationally, Hill was part of the wave that flipped the House to Democratic control. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi picked her for a coveted leadership seat. Hill also is vice-chair of the powerful House Oversight Committee.

In a statement Sunday, Pelosi praised Hill for bringing "a powerful commitment to her community and a bright vision for the future" to the House but added: "She has acknowledged errors in judgment that made her continued service as a Member untenable."

NATION

Halloween, once violent, turned to now-familiar haunts

BY GILLIAN BROCKELL
The Washington Post

It is unclear why exactly the pranks got so bad. Irish immigrants had carried over the Halloween tradition of pranking to the United States, but they had been pretty innocent.

One of the most popular was to disassemble a neighbor's front gate and reassemble it on top of a building. That one was so common that some people called Halloween "Gate Night."

But by the 1920s and '30s, teenage boys had co-opted the prank-making tradition, and they were on a Halloween warpath. They broke streetlights. They started fires. They tied wires across sidewalks to trip people.

A Takoma Park, Md., girl nearly lost an arm after being hit with a stone by Halloween-inspired kids in 1939. A man nearly lost his eyesight after he was hit in the face with a stone in 1932, according to a report in The Washington Post.

In Fairfax, Va., in 1929, roving bands of boys set off dynamite on their school grounds. Another group pulled boards and a large stone into the road and then covered it with leaves, causing a traffic accident. A similar prank killed three people in Waukegan, Ill.

"They were costing cities millions of dollars even in the early '30s," Lisa Morton, author of "Trick or Treat: A History of Halloween," said in an interview with The Post. "There were a lot of cities that were really considering banning the holiday at that point. It was really, really intense."

Parents and civil groups needed a solution. A distraction. Or a bribe.

From this cauldron of parental panic, they pulled out an idea that, to this day, is part of what defines American Halloween.

They thought to throw the kids a party, but "because this was the Great Depression, a lot of people didn't have the money ... so one of the first things they did was called 'house-to-house parties.'"

The entire block would chip in. At the first house, you might get a costume — perhaps a sheet to be a ghost. The next house might give you some candy.

If that sounds like our modern-day trick-or-treating, yes, Morton said, that's where it comes from.

"One of the most common misconceptions about Halloween is that trick-or-treating is some ancient ritual that goes back thousands of years," Morton said. "No, it really is less than 100 years old."

But the denouement would be the house with a simple haunt situation set up, often in their basement.

"They would take the kids down the stairs, and it would be really dark. And they would play that classic thing where they might tell the kids to put their hands in a bowl of peeled grapes and tell them it was eyeballs, that sort of thing."

A 1937 party pamphlet Morton quoted in her book offered tips on how to create a low-cost but terrifying experience:

"Hang old fur, strips of raw liver on walls, where one feels his way to dark steps ... Weird moans and howls come from dark corners, damp sponges and hair nets hung from the ceiling touch his face ... At one place 'Tige' who is a guard dressed as a dog, suddenly jumps out at him, barking and growling ..."

Pretty soon, the civic group called the Junior Chamber, also known as the Jaycees, got in the action. They sponsored "trails of terror" — basically outdoor versions of house-to-house parties in an open field.

The plan worked terrifically, and within a few generations the dangerous pranks were nearly eradicated, replaced by haunted houses and trick-or-treating.

In 1969, Disneyland opened its newest attraction, the Haunted Mansion. Though "dark ride" attractions have a long history at carnivals and amusement parks, the Haunted Mansion inspired folks to kick up their local, Halloween-related haunted houses a notch.

The Jaycees upped their game, but in the 1970s, no one did it better than the Christian group Campus Life. They had mazes, costumed actors and lots of gore in charity haunted houses all over the country.

"I went through one when I was, like, 12, and it was kind of traumatic at that point," Morton said. "You would sit down on a bench to watch an operation, and the bench had actually been wired to give you little electrical zaps."

Isi Atkins, whom The Post's John Kelly wrote about in 2016, claims to be one of the first people to open a professional, interactive haunted house business. He opened Blood Manor in St. Mary's County, Md., in 1971.

Haunted attractions nowadays have to follow safety regulations, and offer all kinds of frights. There are haunted houses in abandoned prisons, "zombie" strip malls and on-the-market real estate; "hell houses" from evangelical groups who try to scare visitors into salvation.



An actor appears in the Medieval Frankenstein Castle about 22 miles south of Frankfurt, Germany, on Saturday.

Germans flock to Frankenstein Castle for Halloween festivities

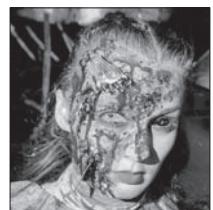
Associated Press



An actor portrays Frankenstein in the castle.



The tower of Burg Frankenstein in Darmstadt, Germany, is shown.



An actress poses in the castle.

FRANKENSTEIN CASTLE, Germany — Medieval Frankenstein Castle has become a favorite haunt for Germans celebrating Halloween, a tradition that's grown increasingly popular in continental Europe in recent years.

The crumbling castle, located 22 miles south of Frankfurt, has been staging spooky festivals since 1977 featuring monsters, gore and spine-chilling live shows.

On Saturday night, about 2,500 revelers — many in costumes — flocked to the castle, where they were entertained by 130 actors.

While the castle's name reminds some of English novelist Mary Shelley's 19th-century book about the man who creates a monster, historians are skeptical that it actually inspired the author.

The House of Frankenstein is believed to have first built a castle at the site in the mid-13th century.

WORLD



Anti-government protesters sit in the middle of a main highway during the 12th day of protests against the Lebanese government and its proposed economic reforms in Beirut on Monday.

Human chain adds to protests against government in Lebanon

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Thousands of Lebanese formed a human chain Sunday along highways and coastal roads in a show of solidarity with anti-government protests.

The protesters joined hands along a main bridge connecting central Beirut to the north and south on the 11th day of nationwide protests.

Ignited by anger at proposed economic reforms, the protests

rapidly escalated into calls for the overthrow of the political elites who have governed the country since the end of its 1975-90 civil war.

"We are demanding our rights so our country will be better and more beautiful for our kids and for us," said Marcel Karkour, who joined the human chain with her two children.

Julian Bourjilli, an architect who joined the chain with his fiancee, said it was a message of

"love and solidarity."

"We are showing the civilized and peaceful image of this movement and, God willing, this chain will reach its maximum number of people."

The rallies have paralyzed a country already grappling with a severe fiscal crisis. But they have also united demonstrators from Lebanon's many religious communities and political factions, with many directing their anger at their own representatives.

Peronists celebrate return to power in Argentina

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Argentina's Peronists celebrated their return to power after incumbent President Mauricio Macri conceded defeat in a dramatic election that likely swung the country back to the center-left, saw the return of a divisive former president and threatened to rattle financial markets.

As investors nervously eyed Monday's market opening, thousands of jubilant supporters of Alberto Fernandez and his vice presidential running mate, former President Cristina Fernandez, waved sky-blue and white Argentine flags and chanted "We're coming back! We're coming back!"

"Today, Alberto is the president of all Argentines," Cristina Fernandez told supporters, some of whom brandished tattoos with her image and the image of her late husband and predecessor as president, Nestor Kirchner.

Late Sunday night, authorities said Alberto Fernandez had 48.1% of the votes compared with 40.4% for Macri with almost 97% percent of the votes counted. He needed 45% support, or 40% support with

a 10 percentage point lead, over the nearest rival to avoid a runoff vote on Nov. 24. No official winner has been declared.

The election was dominated by concerns over the country's economic woes and rising poverty, with voters rejecting austerity measures that Macri insisted were needed to revive the struggling economy.

"The only thing that concerns us is that Argentines stop suffering once and for all," Alberto Fernandez told the crowd.

The 60-year-old lawyer said he would need the support of Macri's administration to reconstruct what he called the inherited "ashes" of Argentina.

"We're back and we're going to better," he said.

Argentina's inflation rate is one of the highest in the world, nearly one third of Argentines are poor and its currency has plunged under Macri, who came into power in 2015 with promises to boost South America's second-largest economy and one of the world's top grain suppliers.

Sunday's result would also mark a dramatic return to high office for Cristina Fernandez,



Peronist presidential candidate Alberto Fernandez and his running mate, former President Cristina Fernandez, wave to supporters Sunday in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

who opponents say might be the real power behind Alberto Fernandez's throne. The running mates — who are not related — dismiss those concerns.

Alberto Fernandez served as chief of staff from 2003 to 2007 for Kirchner. He remained in the position during part of Cristina Fernandez's term as president but left after a conflict with farmers in 2008.

Macri's camp tried but failed to force a runoff by portraying her as a puppet master waiting in the wings.

"I'm so happy. We were waiting for this change for a long time. We're tired of everything that has been happening," said Fernandez supporter Juan Jose De Antonio, 46.

EU OKs a Brexit delay to Jan. 31

Associated Press

LONDON — The European Union agreed Monday to delay Brexit by three months until Jan. 31, making the offer to avert a chaotic U.K. departure just three days before Britain was due to become the first country ever to leave the 28-nation bloc.

The decision was welcomed by politicians in the U.K. and the bloc — but not by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who said just weeks ago that he would "rather be dead in a ditch" than postpone the U.K.'s leaving date past Oct. 31.

In the end, the choice was not in his hands — and the EU's offer of an extension looks to be only a temporary respite from Brexit anxiety.

The U.K. Parliament forced Johnson to ask for a delay in order to avoid a no-deal Brexit, which would hurt the economies of both Britain and the EU.

Johnson is now pushing for an early election as a way of getting a more cooperative Parliament. Lawmakers in the House of Commons are voting later Monday on a government motion calling for a general election on Dec. 12.

After a very short meeting Monday of diplomats in Brussels, European Council President Don-

ald Tusk tweeted that the EU's 27 other countries would accept "the UK's request for a Brexit flex延展 until Jan. 31, 2020." Under the offer, the U.K. can leave before Jan. 31 if the British and European parliaments ratify a Brexit divorce agreement — either on Dec. 1 or Jan. 1.

"It was a very short and efficient and constructive meeting and I am happy the decision has been taken," said Michel Barnier, the EU's chief Brexit negotiator.

There was no immediate response from Johnson, who is bound by law to accept the EU's terms. But Johnson's spokesman insisted it was Parliament's fault that Johnson had failed to deliver his core promise of an Oct. 31 Brexit.

"We should be leaving on Oct. 31," said spokesman James Slack. "He did secure a great new deal, he set out a timetable that would have allowed the U.K. to leave on Oct. 31 with that deal — and Parliament blocked it."

The delay is the third time the Brexit deadline has been changed since British voters decided in a 2016 referendum to leave the bloc. Johnson now wants to push his Brexit withdrawal bill through Parliament before the election, but his opponents don't want to give him that victory.

Wealth disparity behind massive protests in Chile

Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — It's not about a 4-cent increase in subway prices.

The decision to add 30 pesos to the cost of a ticket on Latin America's most modern public transportation system this month drew little attention inside or outside Chile, at first. People quietly fumed. A week later, high school students launched four days of turnstile-jumping protests. Crowds of angry youths built up inside metro stations.

With no warning, on the afternoon of Oct. 18, they set fire to stations, then trains. Then grocery stores, department stores and pharmacies went up in flames. Hundreds of thousands of people were left stranded at home or on the streets without public transport. But instead of blaming the young protesters, Chileans from almost all walks of life used social media to call for protests against years of government mismanagement.

Santiago exploded into a week of massive street protests that culminated Friday with more than 1 million people in the heart of the capital and other major cit-

ies — the largest demonstrations ever in the country, according to multiple historians.

With the world wondering how modern, prosperous Chile had erupted into chaos, a protest concert drew 15,000 on Sunday to O'Higgins Park in central Santiago. There, Chileans said the rise in the cost of a metro ticket had been merely the spark that set off years of frustration with the dark underbelly of their country's long drive to be the most market-driven economy in Latin America.

"What we Chileans want is equal treatment for all, that the same be divided up fairly," said Mario Gonzalez, 34, who runs a T-shirt printing business. "We don't want anything for free; we just want to pay a fair price."

Young, old, poor and middle-class protesters said they were united by frustration with the so-called neoliberal model that has left Chile with region-topping prosperity along with a widely criticized private pension system and two-tiered health and education systems that blend the public and private, with better results for the minority who can afford to pay, protesters said.

WORLD

'Resistance tattoos'

Protesters in Hong Kong use their skin and ink to show their support for movement

BY KELVIN CHAN
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Mike Chan's tattoo needle buzzed gently as he drew a design on his customer's thigh — a figure wearing a helmet, goggles and mask.

Dipping his needle into pots of black, red and yellow ink, Chan hunched over his client's leg as he painstakingly brought to life the image of a Hong Kong protester clad in protective gear.

Using his art is Chan's way of contributing to Hong Kong's anti-government protest movement, which has consumed the semi-autonomous Chinese territory for months.

While groups of hardcore protesters tangling with riot police have become the movement's most visible symbol, others are using skin and ink to show their support.

"I am actually just a peaceful protester," said Mary, who was getting the thigh tattoo, her first. "I really want to go to the front line, but I don't have the courage yet to stand and fight against the government at the front because I'm very frightened."

She chose her thigh because she could easily cover it up. She would reveal only her first name because she didn't want anyone she works with to find out.

Many protesters have sought to conceal their identities with face masks to avoid being identified, out of fear of arrest.

Hong Kong's protest movement



KIN CHEUNG/AP

A woman who goes by the single name "Mary" shows off her tattoo in Hong Kong on Oct. 23. Tattoo artist Mike Chan drew the image of a Hong Kong protester clad in protective gear on Mary's thigh.

erupted in June in opposition to an extradition bill that would have sent suspects to stand trial in mainland China and later expanded to include full democracy and police accountability.

Rallies have frequently ended in mayhem, with hardcore protesters wearing goggles and gas masks throwing bricks and

firebombs at police armed with tear gas, pepper spray and water cannons.

Now in its fifth month, the unrest has polarized the city.

Mary, 29, said she has taken part in mass protests that involved peaceful activity, such as singing along to the movement's anthem.

But she added: "I really admire front-line protesters who fight at the front and are not afraid of getting arrested or being beaten up. Not everyone has this courage."

Mary said she had been thinking about getting a protest tattoo for about two months. She hoped that it would inspire her friends to get them too.

S. Korea offers meeting with North on halted tours

BY HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea on Monday proposed a face-to-face meeting with North Korea on the fate of a long-shattered joint tourist project at a scenic North Korean mountain as their relations remain cool over stalemate nuclear diplomacy.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last week ordered the destruction of South Korean-built facilities at the North's Diamond Mountain resort, saying they look "shabby" and "unpleasant-looking." North Korea later proposed an exchange of documents to

work out details.

On Monday, South Korea sent a message proposing officials from the two Koreas meet to discuss issues on the tourist project including the North's push to tear down South Korean-constructed facilities there, according to Seoul's Unification Ministry. Spokesman Lee Sang-min said South Korea hasn't yet proposed a specific date and location for that meeting.

Lee said South Korea has determined there should be "some sort of meeting" between the two Koreas to discuss the issue. He said "a unilateral action" by North Korea could damage inter-

Korean relations and runs counter to public sentiments in South Korea.

North Korea didn't immediately respond to South Korea's proposal.

South Korean tours to the mountain began in 1998, providing a rare source of foreign currency for the impoverished North. The mountain was also one of the few places in North Korea that South Koreans could visit.

But the project was halted in 2008 when a North Korean soldier fatally shot a South Korean tourist who the North says entered a restricted area.

Pyongyang has called for the project's restart since it entered nuclear diplomacy with Washington and Seoul last year. But Seoul cannot revive tours to the mountain and other massive stalled inter-Korean economic projects while international sanctions remain in place over the North's nuclear program.

Some experts say the North's threat to destroy the South Korean facilities, which include hotels, restaurants and spas, might be an expression of its frustration at the sanctions and a bid to put more pressure on Seoul to resume the tours.

Colombia's capital city of Bogota elects first female mayor

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — Colombia's capital city elected its first female mayor Sunday in what is being hailed as an important advancement for both women and LGBT rights.

Claudia Lopez won the race for mayor of Bogota on a platform promising to combat corruption and advance equal rights for minority communities.

The Alianza Verde candidate captured more than 1.1 million votes, or about 35% of the vote, defeating runner-up Carlos Galan by 2.7 percentage points.

With her victory, Lopez also becomes the first openly lesbian mayor of a capital city in Latin America, a region slowly advancing in improving LGBT rights but where long-standing cultural biases and inequality remain barriers.

"This is the day of the woman," she said to a jubilant crowd. "We knew that only by uniting could we win. We did that. We united, we won and we made history."

She vowed to continue uniting Colombians across the political spectrum and work to improve daily life issues.

Many in the LGBT community praised Lopez's victory as an important step forward in a country where gays and lesbians still

confront harassment. Earlier this year, a man was caught on camera pushing and screaming profanities at two gay men.

Blanca Duran, a former city politician, told the *El Espectador* newspaper that with Lopez's win, Bogota is "setting an example for the country."

"It is showing that it is a city with respect, with diversity, in which we can advance rights," she said.

Chan, who has been working as a tattoo artist for two years, said demand took off after he started doing the protest tattoos for free in July, though it has tapered off more recently.

"I do these resistance tattoos free of charge because I see this as part of protesting," said Chan, comparing himself to supporters handing out free water bottles during rallies in Hong Kong's sweltering heat.

He offers a few dozen variations of the mask and goggles figure for free and has done about 70 of them.

"I want to give them a choice, not just like a stamp that's all the same," he said.

He charges for other protest-themed tattoos such as slogans like "Free Hong Kong" and "Fight for freedom" done in calligraphy because they take more time.

Tattoos in Hong Kong used to have unsavory connotations, usually signifying that the bearer was a member of an organized crime gang. But Chan and Mary said those attitudes have changed in recent years and their acceptance as an art form has grown.

After about half an hour, Chan was finished and Mary showed off her thigh, decorated with a stylized figure of a protester wearing a yellow helmet, goggles and respirator mask with pink filters.

Even though it's permanent, Mary said she'd never regret it.

Masterpiece found in kitchen sells for \$26.6M

PARIS — An old painting found in the kitchen of an elderly French woman, who considered it an icon of little importance, has made her a multimillionaire.

The work, a masterpiece attributed to the 13th-century Italian painter Cimabue that was discovered earlier this year, sold for \$26.6 million on Sunday.

Dominique Le Coent, of Acteon Auction House, who sold the masterpiece to an anonymous buyer near Chantilly, north of Paris, said the sale represented a "world record for a primitive or a pre-1500 work."

"It's a painting that was unique, splendid and monumental. Cimabue was the father of the Renaissance. But this sale goes beyond all our dreams," Le Coent told The Associated Press.

An auctioneer spotted the painting in June while inspecting a woman's house in Compiegne in northern France and suggested she take it to experts for an evaluation. It hung on a wall between the kitchen and dining room.

The woman will now receive "the majority" of the sale money, the auction house said.

Titled "Christ Mocked," the painting measures about 10 inches by 8 inches.

From The Associated Press

BUSINESS/WEATHER

US deficit expected to top \$1 trillion in 2020

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration reported a river of red ink Friday.

The federal deficit for the 2019 budget year surged 26% from 2018 to \$984.4 billion — its highest point in seven years. The gap is widely expected to top \$1 trillion in the current budget year and likely remain there for the next decade.

The year-over-year widening in the deficit reflected such factors as revenue lost from the 2017 Trump tax cut and a budget deal that added billions in spending for military and domestic programs.

Forecasts by the Trump administration and the Congressional Budget Office project that the deficit will top \$1 trillion in the 2020 budget year, which began Oct. 1. The CBO estimates that the deficit will stay above \$1 trillion over the next decade.

Those projections stand in contrast to President Donald Trump's campaign promises that even with revenue lost initially from his tax cuts he could eliminate the budget deficit with cuts in spending and increased growth generated by the tax cuts.

Here are some questions and answers about the current state of the government's finances.

■ What happened? The deficit has been rising every year for the past four years. It's a stretch of widening deficits not seen since the early 1980s, when the deficit exploded with President Ronald Reagan's big tax cut.

For 2019, revenues grew 4%. But spending jumped at twice that rate, reflecting a deal that Trump reached with Congress in early 2018 to boost spending.

■ Why doesn't Washington do



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

The federal deficit for the 2019 budget year is expected to top \$1 trillion in the 2020 budget year that began Oct. 1, but Congress and the Trump administration have shown little inclination to act.

something about it? Fiscal hawks have long warned of the economic dangers of running big government deficits. Yet the apocalypse they fear never seems to happen, and the government just keeps on spending.

There have been numerous attempts by presidents after Reagan to control spending. President George H.W. Bush actually agreed to a tax increase to control deficits when he was in office, breaking his "Read my lips" pledge not to raise taxes.

A standoff between President Bill Clinton and House Speaker Newt Gingrich did produce a rare string of four years of budget surpluses from 1998 through 2001. In fact, the budget picture was so bright when George W. Bush took office in 2001 that the Congressional Budget Office projected that the government would run surpluses of \$5.6 trillion over the next decade.

That didn't happen. The economy slid into a mild recession, Bush pushed through a big tax cut and the war on terrorism sent military spending surging. Then the 2008 financial crisis erupted and triggered a devastating recession. The downturn produced the economy's first round of \$1 trillion deficits under President Barack Obama and is expected to do so again under Trump.

■ Should we worry? As far as most of us can tell, the huge deficits don't seem to threaten the economy or elevate the interest rates we pay on credit cards, mortgages and car loans. In fact, the huge deficits are coinciding with a period of ultra-low rates rather than the surging borrowing costs that economists had warned would likely occur if government deficits got this high.

There is even a new school of economic theory known as the "modern monetary theory." It ar-

gues that such major economies as the United States and Japan don't need to worry about running deficits because their central banks can print as much money as they need.

Yet this remains a distinctly minority view among economists. Most still believe that while the huge deficits are not an immediate threat, at some point they will become a big problem.

■ Any sign that Washington may take more politically painful steps to cut the deficit? In short, no. There has been a major change since the first round of trillion-dollar deficits prompted the Tea Party revolt. This shift brought Republicans back into power in the House and incited a round of fighting between GOP congressional leaders and the Obama administration. It was government shutdowns and near-defaults on the national debt.

Once Trump took office, things changed. The president focused on his biggest legislative achievement, the \$1.5 trillion tax cut passed in 2017. That appeared to satisfy Republican lawmakers and quelled concerns about rising deficits.

Democratic presidential candidates have for the most part pledged to roll back Trump's tax cuts for corporations and wealthy individuals. But they would use the money not to lower the deficits but for increased spending on expensive programs such as Medicare for All.

■ So the deficits won't animate the presidential campaign? It doesn't seem likely, though former Rep. Mark Sanford, who has mounted a long-shot Republican campaign against Trump, is urging Republican voters to return to their historic concerns about the high deficits.

Economists note that today's huge deficits are occurring when the economy is in a record-long economic expansion.

But analysts warn that if the economy does go into a recession, the huge deficits projected now will expand significantly — possibly to a size that would send interest rates surging. Such a development, if it sparked worries about the stability of the U.S. financial system, might produce the type of deficit crisis they have been warning about for so long.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Oct. 29)	\$1.1386
Dollar buys (Oct. 29)	€0.8783
British pound	¥113.32
Chinese yuan	¥106.00
Japanese yen (Oct. 29)	£1.1400
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	1.2848
China (Yuan)	0.1031
China (Yuan)	7.0574
Denmark (Krone)	6.7341
Egypt (Pound)	0.1817
Egypt (Pound)	£1.1093/0.9014
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8393
Iceland (Icelandic króna)	295.77
Israel (Shekel)	3.5331
Japan (Yen)	106.92
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3838
Lithuania (Litas)	2.0242
Philippines (Peso)	51.15
Poland (Złoty)	3.8485
Qatar (Riyal)	3.7553
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3623
South Korea (Won)	109.49
Sweden (Krona)	0.9093
Thailand (Baht)	30.22
Turkey (Lira)	5.7156

These exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. They are not the official rates in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., rates between currencies), you may check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates. Rates are subject to change. Buying currency, all figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pounds, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	1.85
3-month bill	1.63
30-year bond	2.29

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

8-year-old boy builds boxes to collect food

IN SOUTHHAVEN—Some people build little library boxes to encourage reading. An 8-year-old Indiana boy has made a “blessing box” to collect food.

The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported that Jeremiah “Jay” Dawson used birthday money to put the box in his family’s front yard in South Haven in Porter County. It serves as a neighborhood food pantry.

South Haven firefighters recently honored Jay by donating food and presenting him with a \$60 gift card to buy materials for his next box. They visited his house in firetrucks.

Jay said, “I just wanted to help other people.”

Prosthetic leg sought for duck hurt in attack

ME GARDINER — It looks like a duck, quacks like a duck, and — if it gets a prosthetic leg — will once again walk like a duck.

Loni Hamner, of Gardiner, recently adopted a female Mallard duck that was left with one leg and a stump after being attacked by a fox last year. Hamner said the duck she’s named Faith can hop and hobble around, but she wants her “to have a good, duck quality of life and do all the things ducks like to do.”

The Bangor Daily News reported that a query on the Maine Poultry Connection Facebook page led Hamner to the University of Maine Advanced Structure and Composites Center.

Lab manager Paul Bussiere said he’ll create a prosthetic leg for Faith for free in his spare time.

Police find 4 chalices stolen from church

RI JOHNSTON — Police said they have recovered four chalices that were stolen from a Roman Catholic church in Rhode Island.

The chalices were taken on Oct. 22 from the sacristy at Saint Rocco’s in Johnston. A video camera in the church showed a man entering in the afternoon and leaving a short time later carrying a bag.

Police identified the man as David Ferrara, 63, of Providence. They were still searching for him over the weekend.

Police said their investigation led to the recovery of the chalices, which have an estimated value of about \$10,000, although one of them was broken into several pieces.

Officers attacked while trying to stop melee

WORCESTER — Worcester police said several officers were attacked during a melee at a beer garden.

Masslive.com reported five people were charged in the fighting early Saturday morning at the Beer Garden on Franklin Street.

Police said officers were trying to help clear out the establishment



JOSHUA L. JONES, ATHENS (GA.) BANNER-HERALD/AP

Wild Rumpus

A participant in the Wild Rumpus annual Halloween event in downtown Athens, Ga., joins a gathering at the end of the parade route for a performance by the Booty Boyz on Saturday.

after a fight about 12:30 a.m. when several people attacked them.

They said a female officer had a large chunk of hair torn from her head and another officer was bitten by a woman who had taken his baton.

Police said another patron attacked a police dog before being bitten by the animal.

Elephant statue auction to honor slain animal

TN ERWIN — A Tennessee town is preparing to auction off a herd of brightly painted elephant statues that recall a dark day in the town's history.

The Johnson City Press reported the auction is part of a community initiative called the Erwin Elephant Revival. It honors a circus elephant named Mary who was hanged from a derrick in Erwin's rail yard in 1916 after she killed her trainer.

The Elephant Revival lets residents reflect on the past while raising money for the Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald.

The Elephant Revival lets residents reflect on the past while raising money for the Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald.

FBI joins search for bank robbery suspect

MD BALTIMORE — The FBI is helping police in Maryland search for a man it says has robbed eight banks since July.

THE CENSUS

91

The age of a time capsule that was buried under a former West Virginia orphanage that is now a treatment center for youth. The time capsule was opened to celebrate the center's 100-year anniversary. WVVA-TV reported the capsule presented at a Friday celebration at Lewisburg's Davis Stuart Center contained a Bible, photos and newsletters that describe the facility in 1928. Davis Stuart now operates as a court-ordered rehabilitation center for at-risk teens with a Department of Education-run school on a 574-acre campus.

The FBI alleged Saturday that Fletcher Dorsett robbed another bank Friday. That bank is in Baltimore.

News outlets reported Dorsett, 51, was released from federal prison last month after serving a sentence for robbing a Bank of America in 2007. Police said he's now suspected of robbing the bank next door.

Annapolis police said in a news release Thursday that Dorsett is the suspect in a robbery at a Wells Fargo Bank on Oct. 16 in which a man got away with money after handing an employee a note.

The Elephant Revival lets residents reflect on the past while raising money for the Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald.

The Elephant Revival lets residents reflect on the past while raising money for the Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald.

States make plans for 220 mph train rides

GA MARIETTA — High-speed trains would whisk passengers from Atlanta's airport to Charlotte, N.C., at speeds of up to 220 mph.

Public input is being sought on the three proposed routes.

Travel times for the proposed routes vary, with the fastest one taking somewhere between just over two hours and 2 hours and 45 minutes.

That fastest option would operate at top speed for the longest duration and travel through Athens, Ga., and Anderson, S.C., before reaching Charlotte.

The Marietta Daily Journal reported that all three proposed routes would go through Greenville, S.C.

Trooper OK after deer crashes into windshield

IN BLUFFTON — An Indiana state trooper had an unwanted passenger: A deer crashed through the windshield of a patrol car.

A state police spokesman said Trooper A.J. Repass was “doing well” after the collision early Saturday.

Sgt. Brian Walker said on Twit-

ter said Repass’ car is “definitely going to need a cleaning.”

The crash occurred near Bluffton in Wells County, 25 miles south of Fort Wayne.

Walker said drivers need to keep an eye out for deer at this time of year.

City to eliminate library late fines for youth

MA BOSTON — Young people in Boston will no longer have to worry about racking up library fines.

As of Nov. 1, the Boston Public Library will eliminate overdue fines for those under 18.

The library's trustees voted to eliminate the fines, saying it will help remove barriers and expand access to services offered at the library.

Although youth card holders won't face fines for returning books late, they will still be required to return any overdue books in order to check out additional materials and will be responsible for replacement costs if a book is lost or not returned.

The Library Journal found that 5% of public libraries don't charge late fines for youth materials.

The idea has been catching on. Public libraries in Arlington, Merrimac and Ipswich have eliminated overdue fines altogether.

From wire reports

FACES

'It saved my life'

Chappelle, friends honor comedian's career at Mark Twain Prize ceremony

BY PEGGY McGLOONE

The Washington Post

Comedian and hometown hero Dave Chappelle was celebrated for his fearless commentary on American culture Sunday night, when he received the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor at the Kennedy Center.

Bradley Cooper, Morgan Freeman, Tiffany Haddish and Erykah Badu were among the all-stars of film, comedy and music who took to the Concert Hall stage to salute Chappelle, who launched his comedy career as a high school student in Washington.

They honored the 46-year-old with humorous stories, clips from his comedy specials and TV series, heartfelt memories about working together and musical performances by artists who have performed with him over his career.

The audience was treated to clips of Chappelle's controversial material — from his takes on O.J. Simpson and Michael Jackson to riffs on sexual assault and guns — but the performers shied away from mentioning his material on transgender people, which some critics have called hateful and transphobic.

Several comics mentioned Chappelle's honesty and fearlessness. But Chappelle offered a thoughtful defense in his acceptance speech, saying he would fight for every comic's right to talk about what's on their minds.

"This is the truth, and you are obstructing it. I'm not talking about the content. I'm talking about the art form. Do you understand?" he said. "The First Amendment is first for a reason. The Second is just in case the first one doesn't work."

"I love my art form," he said. "It saved my life."

Chappelle thanked his family, especially his wife and mother, and the performers who participated in the evening. "The thing I like the best of tonight, I saw so many people from different parts of my life," he said. "You guys have no idea how you inspire me."

Stand-up comedian and actress Sarah Silverman recalled performing in a D.C. comedy club with Chappelle when they were teenagers. She praised his intelligence and focus and said receiving the Mark Twain Prize was perfect for him because "you both love using the n-word."

"Here's the thing about Dave," she continued. "Dave didn't get funny eventually. He was always funny. He's constantly evolving, he grows, he always finds some kind of new perspective. His critical thinking is his art ... Sometimes I wholeheartedly disagree with him. But that's what I love about Dave, what I love about art."



OWEN SWEENEY, INVISION/AP

Dave Chappelle is honored with the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor at the Kennedy Center on Oct. 27 in Washington.

Each aspect of Chappelle's career was highlighted in the two-hour show, including his work on the groundbreaking Comedy Central sketch series "Chappelle's Show."

A comic workhorse, Chappelle has performed more than 1,600 shows in the past four years. He has starred in many cable comedy specials, including four Netflix releases in 2017 and 2018. "Equanimity," released last year, earned him an Emmy. Chappelle also has enjoyed a successful movie career, with credits that include the latest "A Star Is Born," Spike Lee's "Chi-Raq" and "You've Got Mail."

Sunday's ceremony featured an unusually large number of musical acts — including performances by Common, Yasiin Bey (formerly known as Mos Def), Badu and John Legend. Their participation showcased Chappelle's connection to music.

Jon Stewart recalled Chappelle's decision to leave his Comedy Central series, despite being offered \$50 million to continue. "The courage it takes as a performer and artist to stand up for who you know you are. To take a chance on yourself. It's just one more reason ... why we all just love and respect and admire this man," he said.

The Mark Twain Prize honors a lifetime contribution to American humor. Past winners include Steve Martin, Eddie Murphy, Lily Tomlin and Billy Crystal.

'Joker' retakes top spot at box office

In a rare feat, Warner Bros.' "Joker" reclaimed the top spot at the box office, adding \$18.9 million in its fourth weekend for a cumulative \$277.6 million, according to estimates from measurement firm Comscore.

The film is the first to win non-consecutive weekends since "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" in January 2018. "Joker" is now the highest-grossing R-rated movie worldwide with \$849.1 million, surpassing "Deadpool 2."

In second place, Disney's "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil" added \$18.5 million in its second weekend for a cumulative \$65.4 million. Globally, the film stands at \$293.5 million.

At No. 3, "The Addams Family" added \$11.7 million in its third weekend for a cumulative \$72.8 million. The animated picture has earned \$83.8 million internationally.

Other news

■ Netflix chief Ted Sarandos will be honored in early 2020 by the Producers Guild of America. The guild announced Oct. 25 that Sarandos will receive its top honor, the Milestone Award, at its awards ceremony on Jan. 18. Since 2000, Sarandos has led Netflix's content efforts including its first foray into original programming with "House of Cards" in 2013. Netflix is now the leading streaming platform, with several competitors set to launch new services next month.

■ Paul Barrere, guitarist and singer for the rock group Little Feat, died Oct. 26 due to side effects from an ongoing treatment for liver disease. He was 71.

From wire services

After multiple false alarms, Kanye West releases 'Jesus Is King'

BY BETHONIE BUTLER, ELAHE IZADI
AND HAU CHU

The Washington Post

Kanye West released his ninth studio album, "Jesus Is King," midday Oct. 25, 12 hours after missing a self-imposed deadline in order to fix three tracks, he said on Twitter.

"Thank you for being loyal & patient," West tweeted shortly after midnight. "We got no sleep until this album is out!"

Rife with gospel influences, the 11-track album marks a notable departure for the boundary-pushing rapper. West has increasingly and publicly expressed devotion to Christianity, and reportedly claims he's stepping away from making "secular music."

"I now have given my life to Jesus Christ, and I work for God," West said during a surprise appearance Oct. 24 on "Jimmy Kimmel Live."

Here are a few more details about the album:

Who's on the album

the response his public devotion has been receiving. He also alludes to some of his controversial political statements including his garbled take on the 13th Amendment and his widely-criticized assertion that 400 years of slavery "sounds like a choice."

"Said I f'mma do a gospel album," he raps on "Hands On," the ninth track. "What have you been hearing from the Christians? They'll be the first ones to judge me, makin' feel like nobody love me."

And while "Jesus Is King" incorporates many sonic and thematic facets of West's previous work, one thing you won't hear is cursing.

Who is on the album

Why yes, that is a Kenny G credit on a

Kanye West album. The jazz saxophonist

performs a solo on the 10th track, "Use This Gospel" — and it's a true solo! No other instrument is playing.

"Jesus Is King" has West taking center stage on most of the tracks. Clipse is on

"Use This Gospel." Ty Dolla Sign and Ant Clemons are featured on "Everything We Need." Gospel star Fred Hammond joins West on "Hands On." And Timbaland has

a producer credit on five tracks: "Closed On Sunday," "Water," "Hands On," "Use This Gospel" and "Jesus Is Lord."

Who is not on the album

Sorry Young Thug. The rapper publicly asked West earlier this month if his guest verse would make the cut on "Jesus Is King," and we now know the answer is no.

There had also been speculation about a Nicki Minaj collaboration. But earlier this week, Minaj told The Shade Room that she did a song with West "that he now wants to transform into a gospel song."

Minaj wrote three different verses, she said, adding, "We ain't seeing eye to eye on it. I don't know, but of course, I love and respect Kanye, and Kim, we'll see what happens with that."

Whatever happened with "that" is not happening on "Jesus Is King."

What we know about how this was made

We've learned more in recent days about what went into making "Jesus Is King."

During an interview with Beats 1's Zane Lowe on Oct. 24, West said "there were times where I was asking people not to have premarital sex while they were working on the album."

He also suggested that praying and fast-

ing could be beneficial to the process of making the album. "When people pray together, and fast together, the power is increased."

He also wanted this project to be his collaborators' top — and only — priority. "There were times where I went to people that were working on other projects and said, can you just work and focus on this?" he said.

There's also a film

West didn't just release an album; he's also putting out a short IMAX film of the same name.

Structured as a series of vignettes, the 35-minute film, "Jesus Is King," orbits around the Roden Crater in the Arizona desert, where American artist James Turrell has been working on a visual project since 1977. Turrell's monument in the desert is intended to be an observatory, and West was so enamored with the work that he donated \$10 million in January for its completion.

In the film, a choir, accompanied by a piano, perform inside the dome-like structure, singing a variety of existing gospel hymns, new tracks from the accompanying album and interpretations of the 42-year-old rapper's existing songs (such as "Lost in the World") reimagined with wholesome religious lyrics.

SHIFTING GEARS



PHOTOS BY MARK PHELAN, THE DETROIT FREE PRESS/TNS

2020 Corvette a luxury-car quiet, smooth ride

By MARK PHELAN
Detroit Free Press

The law of unintended consequences doesn't usually apply to pleasant surprises, but the radically new 2020 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray comes with a beauty.

The first-ever Corvette with its engine mounted behind the passengers — a mid-engine layout, in auto parlance — is also the quietest and smoothest in the history of the great American sports car.

Sub-3-second 0-60 mph time notwithstanding, the new Corvette isn't just ready to run with exotic sports cars from Ferrari and Lamborghini on track and country roads. It's also primed to match the best from Mercedes AMG for long-distance touring.

Based on a brief test, I wouldn't hesitate to drop the Stingray into track mode and set off on a cross-country drive.

Improved handling and the ability to use more power aren't surprises in a mid-engined car. But I didn't expect the quietest and most vibration-free cabin of any Corvette I've driven.

It's not easy to keep engine noise out of the cabin as the engine pounds away 18 inches behind the driver's ears. Chevy engineers pulled the trick off with traditional insulation and active noise cancellation.

Add a very stiff chassis with springs and bushings expertly tuned to lock out road noise and vibration, and you've got an interior that's as peaceful as many luxury sedans.

The steering is fast and direct, even more responsive than the 2019 'Vette, thanks to the car's lighter nose, a higher center of gravity and new steering gear.

A new feature that will save owners countless paint chips and minor repairs allows the driver to raise the Corvette's nose for driveways and to avoid parking blocks. You can even tell the GPS to remember frequently visited spots and raise the nose automatically if you forget.

The engine announces its presence when it gas the course. The 'Vette leaps

forward, and the engine roars to life. The suspension shifts smoothly at light throttle but hammers through the gears when you nail it.

The new Corvette's dynamics, design and comfort have the makings of a hit.

What's new?

Virtually everything about the Corvette changed when Chevy decided to move the engine from the nose to between the passenger compartment and rear axle.

Putting the engine there means 60% of the car's weight is over its rear axle — not coincidentally also Ferrari's preferred ratio. It lends itself to better acceleration because the weight presses the wheels down, putting more power to the street without spinning them.

Brace yourself for future Corvettes that are even more powerful than the 2019 ZR1's 755 horsepower, but the current car's 490 horsepower already delivers that 0-60 mph in less than 3 seconds.

A fast and smooth dual-clutch automatic transmission connects engine and rear wheels.

The 2020 Stingray is the first Corvette that doesn't offer a manual transmission. The dual-clutch, or DCT, is quicker and more efficient than a manual, but Chevy would've offered a manual if it could. The problem was that sales would be so small that no transmission maker would even bid for the job to develop and make a new manual for the 'Vette.

On top of that, there literally isn't enough room for a clutch pedal in the driver's footwell. I found it surprisingly roomy, likely enough to stretch and shift your legs during a long drive.

If you insist on shifting yourself — seriously, do you churn your own butter? — the steering wheel has paddle shifters.

The interior fits like it's tailored to the driver. An 8-inch touchscreen angled toward me as I sat behind the wheel. Below it on the center console are a computer-style wrist rest, buttons and levers to select gears, a dial for drive mode and a wall of

climate-control buttons and switches between driver and passenger.

The mid-engine layout changed the Corvette's basic proportions, shortening the hood and lengthening the rear deck. Overall length increased 2.5 inches. The height of the roof is virtually unchanged, up 0.1 inch to 48.6.

It took cranky baby boomers less time to complain about the 'Vette's looks, layout and transmission than to say, "Where's the in-dash CD player?"

Distract them with a "Brady Bunch" DVD and go out for a drive. The changes are for the better. The 2020 Corvette Stingray is a landmark.

How much?

Prices start at \$58,900, a bargain for a car with the Stingray's looks and performance. My test car was loaded and stickered at \$87,800.

The 2020 Chevy Corvette Stingray will go on sale late this year or early in 2020.

Chevrolet Corvette Stingray



Base price: \$58,900

Price as tested: \$87,800

Audio: 14-speaker Bose

Transmission: Eight-speed dual-clutch automatic

Engine: 6.2-liter V-8

Horsepower: 495 at 6,450 rpm; 470 pound-feet of torque at 5,150 rpm

Estimated fuel economy rating: TBA

depending on when production resumes after General Motors' strike with the United Auto Workers is resolved. A convertible will follow a few months later.

A few omissions from the 2020 Corvette Stingray's equipment surprised me:

- No tuning dial for the audio.
- Adaptive cruise control is not available.

- Driver assistance features like lane-keeping assist are not available.
- No electric features to improve fuel economy.

There are answers, if not explanations, to several of those. A wheel on the steering wheel doubles as a tuning dial, but only when you've got the audio displayed in the instrument cluster instead of other features like a G-force meter and trip computer.

Chevrolet won't say this, but I'll be disappointed if the Stingray isn't the first non-Cadillac to offer GM's marvelous Super Cruise hands-free, semiautonomous driving system. I don't understand why adaptive cruise control, which uses some of the same systems but doesn't steer the car, isn't offered from Job 1, but I'm confident there's more to come in Corvette's driver-assistance arsenal.

The lack of electrified fuel-saving features is surprising, more so if Chevy doesn't have something up its sleeve over the next few model years. Otherwise, the new 'Vette runs the risk of being dated before its time.

Other things to watch include luggage room, a strength of recent Corvettes, which falls 16.7% to 12.5 cubic feet. The mid-engine layout cost the accommodating hatchback of previous 'Vettes, so the total is divided between a rear trunk and carry-on-size compartment in the nose. On the other hand, the upcoming convertible doesn't lose any luggage space and will be bigger than the 2019 convertible had.

Is it easy for the passenger to reach their climate controls, located on the ridge dividing the two seats?

The new gear selector seems intuitive in a short drive, but only time behind the wheel will tell for sure.

TNS



SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



Dental 902

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly (days Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Saturday and for 75 cents Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Inc., One Park Plaza, AP Building, San Francisco, CA, Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APG Defense Media Activity, San Francisco, CA 94141-5002.

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stripes.com**OPINION****Dems' impeachment momentum problem**

By NOAH FELDMAN

Bloomberg Opinion

To understand where the impeachment inquiry has gone so far, and where it's likely to go next, you need to keep in mind one key concept. Hint: It's not quid pro quo.

It's momentum.

To date, House Democrats have built on the original whistleblower's document by eliciting behind-closed-doors depositions from those officials in the State Department, Defense Department and White House who are willing to defy President Donald Trump's order not to participate. By leaking the headlines of their testimony, the Democrats have been able to dominate the news cycle for weeks.

The polls seem to indicate that the public is listening, at least to some extent. Since the formal inquiry was launched, the percent of people who support impeachment has risen from 39% to 49%. Impeachment supporters now narrowly outnumber impeachment opposers. Yet the Democrats are reaching the end of this phase of quasi-secret investigative depositions. And public hearings will pose a significant challenge to the Democrats' momentum.

The first problem the Democrats will face is that much of the public — and all of the media — already knows the basic outlines of the story that will unfold in the public testimony. That's because of the basic fact that the Ukraine scandal is fairly simple. Trump pressured the president of Ukraine to investigate a political rival, and he conditioned military aid and a White House visit on a public announcement that such an investigation would take place.

As Nancy Pelosi and other Democratic leaders noted at the beginning of the impeachment inquiry, the simplicity of the narrative is a major virtue from their standpoint. The public neither wants nor

would tolerate anything with the complexity of the Robert Mueller investigation.

The downside of the simplicity, however, is that once the story is fixed in the public mind, there is going to be relatively little new to say about it. A lack of "new news" will slow the inquiry's sense of momentum. Sure, scandal aficionados can nerd out over the details of which Ukrainian prosecutor is connected to what network of Ukrainian oligarchs. And there's always some pleasure to be taken in observing just how remarkable are the public-service resources of the so-called deep-state witnesses, like Ambassador William Taylor, who have testified against Trump. However, these will not sustain more than a single news cycle.

The one significant twist still remaining in the current phase of deposition-taking will come when former national security adviser John Bolton either comes forward or definitively bows out. There has already been testimony that he referred to the alternative Ukraine policy being cooked up by White House acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney and others as a "drug deal" that he wanted part of. It's therefore conceivable that Bolton would be able to testify directly about the quid pro quo. It's also conceivable, however, that some of the knowledge he might have is subject to executive privilege. And Bolton is likely to take seriously the consequences of any testimony for the office of the national security adviser and for the presidency. The result could be either dramatic testimony or a dramatic refusal to testify.

Once the Bolton issue is resolved, the move to public testimony will be unavoidable. That stage will give rise to the second major challenge to the Democrats' momentum: the Republican counterpunch in the form of a concerted attack on the very rival Trump asked Ukraine to investigate, Joe Biden. Once television cameras are in the room, GOP members of Congress can be

expected to use their questioning time to hammer home Trump's allegation that Joe and Hunter Biden did something corrupt.

The Democrats (not to mention the Bidens) are potentially vulnerable to this method of momentum-breaking. Although Biden has insisted that neither he nor his son did anything wrong, the reality is that Hunter Biden took a position on the Board of Directors of Burisma, a Ukrainian energy company controlled by an oligarch who was under investigation for money-laundering by Ukrainian prosecutors. Joe Biden, as vice president, sought the removal of the investigation's chief prosecutor. Although Joe Biden's actions were consistent with U.S. policy — American and International Monetary Fund officials were frustrated with the prosecutor for not taking a stronger stance against corruption, and indeed, it seems that despite being assigned the Burisma case he basically ignored it — the basic sequence of events creates an appearance of impropriety.

Republicans will use the Bidens to try to change the subject, because changing the subject means weakening the Democrats' momentum. It also is very likely that Republicans will seek to get into the weeds of the various conspiracy theories that surround the whole affair.

The Democrats don't have a simple response to this, except to insist on their narrative and hope the public won't be distracted. To maintain momentum in the public hearings stage, they will have to try a "greatest hits" strategy, getting the existing witnesses in front of the public for brief and pointed hearings.

Although momentum has been on the side of Democrats so far, many things can still change that. The path forward will have more twists and turns.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Noah Feldman is a professor of law at Harvard University and was a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter.

Someone has to say it: 'Medicare for All' is a pipe dream

By RAHM EMANUEL

Special to *The Washington Post*

I am worried about the Democratic Party's new focus on "Medicare for All."

The merits of the policy are anything but a slam dunk but, more immediately, the politics are a minefield.

When it comes to health care reform, Democrats need to mind three basic rules. First, experience teaches us that as much as Americans hate the status quo, they're not too excited about change either. Second, policy is not everything — political communication counts too. Third, success ultimately rests with uniting your allies and dividing your opponents.

Medicare for All is guaranteed to frighten many Americans who already have health coverage. It would require a disastrously unpopular tax increase on the middle class. And it would unite a world of the special interests against us.

This dog just won't hunt. Perhaps worse, we cannot afford to try and then fail. Losing on health care will make it more difficult for us to make progress on education, the environment or other social justice issues. We need to chart a different path. So let's use history and context as a guide.

I'm mystified as to why, at a moment when 90% of Americans already have insurance, our presidential debates are focused so exclusively on expanding coverage rather than containing costs. That's the challenge that bedevils most families constructing their monthly budgets at the kitchen table. Moreover, let's not forget that the Affordable Care Act represents the only time in a century of trying that

universal coverage managed to get a vote on the floor of both houses of Congress. Lightning rarely strikes once. But twice, in fewer than a dozen years?

Maybe you think Medicare for All is the way to go. If so, please explain to me exactly how we get that bill through the Senate? Democratic senators in 2010, we had 58 Senate Democrats, yet we weren't even able to get a vote on a public option. Even if we draw a royal flush in next year's election, we'll have only 51 votes. Here's an offer: You identify for me the nine Senate Republicans who are going to vote to break a filibuster against a single-payer system and I'll publicly declare that New York's thin-crust cardboard pizza is better than Chicago's deep dish.

I believe we ought to work on a more politically palatable agenda, one that builds on the successes we've achieved incrementally by expanding coverage to vulnerable portions of the population — for the elderly (Medicare), the poor (Medicaid), veterans (Veterans Affairs) and children (CHIP).

How to do it? To begin, let's remind voters of how dangerous President Donald Trump is. His budget called for the largest cuts in Medicare ever proposed by a U.S. president. Highlighting Trump's plan for "Medicare Cuts for All" should be the table setter before we explain what we'll do to control costs and expand coverage.

Then, in an effort to build on our previous successes, we should focus on the fastest-growing portion of the uninsured community — the vote-rich demographic of early retirees. Here's a simple fix: Expand coverage by allowing Americans 55 and older to buy into Medicare before they hit 65. Republicans will then be forced ei-

ther to support an expansion or alienate a crucial electoral voting bloc.

Finally, we should make good on the promise of a true public option by giving private citizens access to the same insurance coverage federal employees, Senators, Congress staffers and their family members enjoy in taxpayer-subsidized plans that leverage the size of the federal workforce to drive down premium, copays and prescription drug costs. Opening those rolls to everyone would put the GOP in the uncomfortable position of having to explain why voters shouldn't have access to the same plans they're already purchasing for people being chauffeured around Washington.

The bottom line is that there's simply no path to enacting Medicare for All in the current political environment, and promising something we can't deliver will do nothing but depress Democratic turnout in years to come. Since we're already proposing to rewrite the tax code, decriminalize the border, give everyone free college and eliminate the use of fossil fuels with the Green New Deal — all initiatives that will require us to expend enormous amounts of political capital — maybe we want to be strategic on at least one big-ticket item.

Our approach to health care needs to be centered on political reality, not a pipe dream. Let's pursue an agenda that not only controls costs and expands coverage but also opens the door for us to succeed fighting inequality, improving education, saving the environment and delivering social justice.

Rahm Emanuel is a former mayor of Chicago, Democratic congressman from Illinois and White House chief of staff.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



Lisa Benson/Washington Post Writers Group



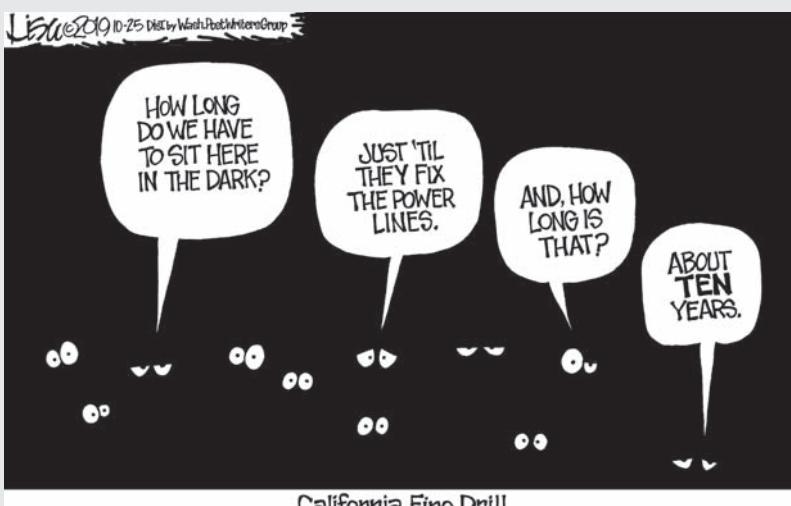
Jack Ohman/Washington Post Writers Group



Walt Handelsman/Tribune Content Agency



Lisa Benson/Washington Post Writers Group



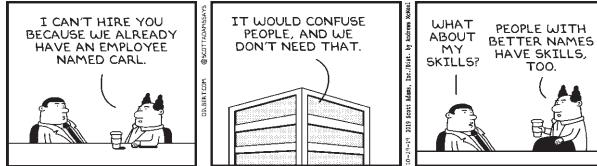
California Fire Drill

Lisa Benson/Washington Post Writers Group

En977



Dillhert



Pearls Before Swine



Non-Senior



Sandorville



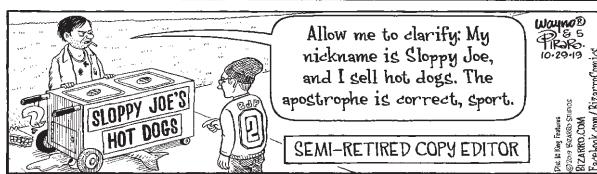
Carne Diem



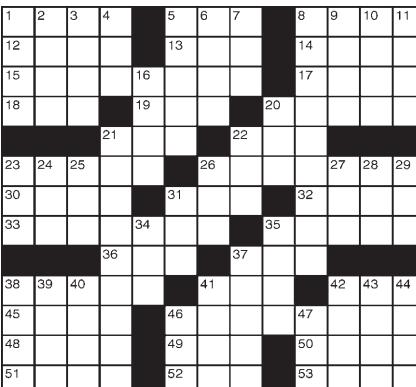
Seattle Bailey



Bizzarri



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

1 "West Side Story" gang	Sandburg	birthstones
5 Nile viper	51 Tennis barriers	22 Scepter
8 Resign	52 Hearty quaff	23 Cave mammal
12 Oodles	53 Literary Jane	24 Devoured
13 Piratic potion		25 — de plume
14 — Major	DOWN	26 Soccer's Hamm
15 Dracula's ilk	1 Coffee	27 Animal doc
17 Petri dish gel	2 Israeli airline	28 Recede
18 Priestly garment	3 Pyramid, maybe	29 Utter
19 June honoree	4 NASCAR	31 Branch
20 Rep	advertiser	34 Ms. Thurman
21 Sauce source	5 Orderly grouping	35 Blunder
22 LP speed	6 Took to court	37 Because
23 Hackneyed	7 Evening hrs.	38 Autograph
26 Reasons why	8 Sticky situations	39 Curved molding
30 Perched on	9 Incite	40 Garrison
31 Succor	10 "This — outrage!"	41 Seethe
32 Country's McEntire	11 Small fruit pie	42 Beseach
33 Deep-fried Japanese dish	16 Teen fave	43 Frankfurt fellow
	20 Likely	44 Cruise stop
		46 Bikini top
		47 Hockey surface

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:

- Across: SWISS, RANT, TIE, WEIRD, PICASSO, ONION, UDON, PAT, GORY, PLODS, FLATTAX, SELLER, CHI, OXEN, AGAIN, JUNO, GOT, HIKE, ONES, ANE, TREES, BITE, LOX, SAT.

10-29

CRYPTOQUIP

D O E N L B O N X G H D H P G H E
R O T H E N G H P X B S H K K
R H E W P P W V N X H B R B N X T
H U X Y H H C U H Y S B L C U O P

N B H X J O E G H E H T O B .
**Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FRUITY ALCOHOLIC
DRINKS THAT PIGS WOULD DEFINITELY LIKE
TO GULP DOWN: SWINE COOLERS**

GOLF/AUTO RACING



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

Tiger Woods celebrates after winning the Zozo Championship PGA Tour at the Accordia Golf Narashino country club in Inzai, east of Tokyo, Japan, on Monday.

Woods ties record for PGA Tour wins

By JIM ARMSTRONG
Associated Press

INZAI CITY, Japan — For Tiger Woods, it all comes down to consistency.

Surgers on his knee and back and a crisis in his personal life have cost him opportunities to play his best golf over the past decade. But when he's been healthy and free from off-course distractions, he's always found ways to win. And now, he's won as much as anybody on the PGA Tour.

Woods completed a wire-to-wire victory at the Zozo Championship on Monday, equaling Sam Snead's PGA Tour record of 82 victories.

"It's a big number," Woods said. "It's a lot of consistency and doing it for a long period of time. Sam did it into his 50s and I'm in my early to mid-40s, so it's about being consistent and doing it for a very long period of time. I've been very fortunate to have the career I've had so far."

The 43-year-old returned Monday to play the final seven holes in the rain-hit tournament, completing a 3-under 67 to beat local favorite Hideki Matsuyama by three strokes at Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club.

Woods had arthroscopic surgery on his left knee two months ago — his fifth on the same problem joint. He's also had four back surgeries, including a spinal fusion, and looked at times as if his career was over, but he returned to win the Tour Championship in 2018 before his triumph at the Masters in April for his 15th major.

The Japan event was Woods' first start of his 23rd season on the PGA Tour.

"I can still manage my way around the golf course," Woods said. "I know how to play. I was able to do that this week."

The fourth round was suspended because of darkness Sunday with Woods holding a three-stroke lead over Matsuyama in the first official PGA Tour event in Japan.

He bogeyed his first hole, but was solid

the rest of the way with birdies on Nos. 14 and 18 to finish at 19-under 261. Matsuyama also closed with a 67.

Woods opened with consecutive 64s, with a day off in between because of rain. He had a 66 on Sunday in the third round.

"It's been a long week," Woods said. "Five days at the top of the leaderboard is a long time."

As the U.S. Presidents Cup captain, Woods was asked about picking himself for the team.

"I think the player got the captain's attention," Woods said.

Woods' approach shot on the 12th found a greenside bunker. He blasted out and left himself a long par putt that he missed for bogey, cutting the lead to two strokes.

But that was the only time he would falter.

Matsuyama missed a short birdie putt on the par-5 14th with a chance to cut the lead to a stroke. Woods, playing in the group behind Matsuyama, made birdie to restore the three-stroke lead.

It was a wild debut for the PGA in Japan. Torrential rain washed out play Friday, forcing the second round to be moved to Saturday.

To make up for the lost day, the players started the fourth round immediately after finishing the third to get in as many holes as possible.

The course took on over 8 inches of rain Friday and was in remarkably good shape when play resumed on Saturday for the second round.

Woods got in 11 holes and played 29 holes Sunday before having to come back for a 7:30 a.m. start.

"This was certainly demanding," Woods said. "Being in the lead for the better part of five days puts a stress on the mind. It's not easy to do ... It's stressful, it wears one out, but somehow I was able to finish out on top and make key putts this week."

Rory McIlroy, the highest-ranked player in the field, completed his round with two birdies for a 67 to tie for third at 13 under with Sungjae Im, who shot 65.

Truex wins at Martinsville, earns spot in championship

BY JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

MARTINSVILLE, Va. — Martin Truex Jr. was celebrating the victory that locked him into NASCAR's title race when he heard the crowd roar, looked up at the big screen and saw two championship contenders jawing at each other on pit road.

"Oh, look, a fight," the winner said.

Indeed, Denny Hamlin was knocked to the ground in a confrontation with Joey Logano in the most intense action of an otherwise lackluster playoff Sunday at Martinsville Speedway.

Truex earned a spot in NASCAR's championship race for the third consecutive year by leading 464 of the 500 laps. He's the first driver to claim one of the four spots in the Nov. 17 title race at Homestead-Miami Speedway while leading the most laps in a win since Kyle Petty led 484 laps in 1992 at Rockingham.

There were just three lead changes, and Truex controlled the event from the first round of pit stops, when he beat Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Hamlin back onto the track for the lead. He was hardly challenged at all and his Toyota coasted to his first career victory at NASCAR's shortest track.

"We're going to Homestead again and that was what we tried to accomplish this weekend," Truex said. "We don't have to worry about points anymore. We can just get to work on our Homestead car."

Martinsville marked the first of three races in the round of eight of the playoffs, where the field will be trimmed to a winner-take-all final four for the finale. Truex is locked in, while Hamlin, Kyle Busch and Logano are above the cutline. Kevin Harvick, Ryan Blaney, Chase Elliott and Kyle Larson are the bottom four.

The next two rounds will be must-win situations for Elliott, NASCAR's most popular driver, who suffered a catastrophic mechanical failure and finished 36th in the 38-car field. A victory earns a playoff driver an automatic berth into the final four.

For Truex, the win was redemption from a year ago at Martinsville when he raced Logano cleanly over the closing laps and Logano snatched the win away from Truex. Logano then won the championship.

"After last year, everybody wants to keep talking about last year, and I'm like 'We've got work to do,'" said Truex, the 2017 champion who will race for the title for the fourth time in five years. He was runner-up to Logano last season.

As Truex celebrated, the crowd focus turned to pit road where Hamlin and Logano were having what appeared to be a civil conversation. Hamlin wagged his finger at Logano, then Logano placed his hand on Hamlin's



STEVE HELDER/AP

Martin Truex Jr. greets fans before the NASCAR Cup Series race at Martinsville Speedway in Martinsville, Va., Sunday, August 25, 2019. Truex won the race to lock up a spot in NASCAR's title race.

shoulder somewhat flippantly as he walked away. Hamlin chased after him, crew members got in the way and Hamlin was knocked to the ground.

Hamlin said after it was over Logano typically handles confrontation.

"It was a discussion. I understand him coming over and talking, standing there and having a discussion with him, everything was fine," Hamlin said. "I think he didn't get me agitated enough. So he said something and then pokes a little bit and then runs away trying to get me to come so he could hide behind his guys. He's just not that tough. And he won't stand face-to-face. That's just his style."

"It was civil and then like Joey does, he does a little push and then runs away. He said 'Do you want to go?' I said 'Yes, I'm here' and then he runs away."

For good measure, Hamlin did an imitation of Logano picked up on the big screen that brought the crowd to its feet in approval.

Logano said the incident stemmed from on-track contact when Hamlin showed Logano into the wall and caused a cut tire.

"I just wanted to talk to him about it and was pretty frustrated. He just kind of came off the corner like they wasn't another car on the outside of him and ruined our day. A shot at the win for sure," Logano said. "Maybe shouldn't have shoved him there at the end. I honestly just wanted to see what he was going to say, and he really wasn't apologetic at all. That's more frustrating when someone is like that, isn't it? When someone wrecks you and he's like, 'Meh.' That's not really what I was going for there. I just wanted to see what his thoughts were, and wasn't quite the answer I was looking for."

William Byron and Brad Kes-

elowski, both already eliminated from the playoffs, finished second and third.

Hamlin was fourth, followed by Blaney, another playoff contender.

Kurt Busch, eliminated from the playoffs in the first round, was sixth and followed by title contenders Harvick, Logano and Larson at his worst track in this round.

Kyle Busch had a really rough day and finished 18th, which would have been worst of the title contenders if not for Elliott's issues.

Elliott had to start at the back of the field because of an engine change but worked his way inside the top-five until he stopped for a routine service. His Chevrolet lurched as he pulled away and he radioed in to his Hendrick Motorsports crew that he believed he had a broken axle.

Elliott returned to pit road for lengthy attempts at a repair before he finally drove his car to the garage for more intense work. It dropped him to last in the field by the end of the second stage.

Elliott returned to the track down 52 laps from the leaders and in a must-win situation either next week at Texas or in the elimination race of the third round of the playoffs at ISM Raceway outside Phoenix.

Truex meanwhile, won all three stages of the race. He took control of the race coming off pit road during service stops under yellow in the first stage and quickly went to work lapping most of the field. Hamlin started from the pole but had a below-average first pit stop under caution after leading the first 31 laps. He restarted fifth, with teammate Truex the new leader and Truex was never challenged in winning his third race of these playoffs.

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	Atlantic Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Buffalo	12	9	2	1	19	42	30
Boston	11	8	1	2	18	36	24
Carolina	11	7	4	0	15	35	30
Toronto	13	6	5	2	14	46	45
Tampa Bay	10	6	4	0	13	34	32
Montreal	11	5	6	1	12	30	39
Ottawa	11	3	7	1	7	29	37
Detroit	12	3	8	1	7	27	45
Metro Division							
Washington	11	8	2	1	19	50	43
N.Y. Islanders	11	8	3	0	16	34	27
Capitals	11	7	4	0	15	35	30
Pittsburgh	12	7	5	0	14	39	30
Columbus	10	4	6	0	12	32	37
Philadelphia	10	3	7	0	8	31	34
N.Y. Rangers	9	3	5	1	7	20	24
New Jersey	9	2	5	2	6	26	36

Western Conference

	Central Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	11	8	2	1	17	44	30
Nashville	11	7	4	0	15	35	30
St. Louis	12	6	3	3	15	37	31
Winnipeg	12	6	6	0	12	32	37
Chicago	10	4	6	0	12	30	39
Minnesota	11	3	8	2	8	25	31
North Division							
Edmonton	11	7	4	0	17	37	33
Vegas	11	6	5	0	16	42	36
Calgary	13	6	5	1	14	36	39
Vancouver	10	6	5	1	13	35	32
Arizona	11	4	7	0	8	21	29
Los Angeles	12	4	7	1	9	31	43
Pacific Division							
San Jose	12	4	7	1	9	31	43
Seattle	11	3	8	0	7	21	29
for overtime loss: Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference qualify for playoffs.							
Saturday's games							
Florida 4, Chicago 0							
Montreal 4, Boston 2							
Nashville 3, Tampa Bay 2							
Boston 3, St. Louis 0							
Philadelphia 4, Columbus 4							
Minnesota 5, Los Angeles 1							
Vegas 5, Arizona 2							
Winnipeg 2, Calgary 1							
Tuesday's games							
Florida 4, Chicago 0							
Montreal 4, Boston 2							
Chicago 5, Los Angeles 1							
Boston 3, N.Y. Rangers 4							
N.Y. Islanders 5, Philadelphia 3							
Vegas 5, Arizona 2							
Mondays' games							
Arizona at Buffalo							
Tuesday's games							
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh							
San Jose 3, Carolina 2							
Calgary at Carolina							
Washington at Toronto							
Edmonton 3, Tampa Bay 2							
Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Rangers							
Chicago at Nashville							
Minnesota 3, Dallas 2							
Winnipeg at Anaheim							
Sunday							
Senators 5, Flyers 3							
Philadelphia 2, N.Y. Islanders 1							
Wednesday's games							
Philadelphia 3, Florida 2							
Montreal 3, Boston 2							
Chicago 3, Tampa Bay 2							
Boston 3, St. Louis 0							
Philadelphia 4, Columbus 4							
Minnesota 5, Los Angeles 1							
Vegas 5, Arizona 2							
Winnipeg 2, Calgary 1							
Tuesday's games							
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh							
San Jose 3, Carolina 2							
Calgary at Carolina							
Washington at Toronto							
Edmonton 3, Tampa Bay 2							
Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Rangers							
Chicago at Nashville							
Minnesota 3, Dallas 2							
Winnipeg at Anaheim							
Sunday							
Senators 5, Sharks 2							
Philadelphia 2, N.Y. Islanders 1							
Wednesday's games							
Philadelphia 3, Florida 2							
Montreal 3, Boston 2							
Chicago 3, Tampa Bay 2							
Boston 3, St. Louis 0							
Philadelphia 4, Columbus 4							
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Winnipeg 2, Calgary 1							
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Philadelphia at Pittsburgh							
San Jose 3, Carolina 2							
Calgary at Carolina							
Washington at Toronto							
Edmonton 3, Tampa Bay 2							
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Minnesota 3, Dallas 2							
Winnipeg at Anaheim							
Sunday							
Panthers 5, Oilers 2							
Florida 3, Edmonton 2							
Wednesday's games							
Florida 3, Panthers 2							
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Florida 3, Panthers 2							
Edmonton 2, N.Y. Islanders 1							

NFL

Coleman's 4 TDs lead 49ers past Panthers

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Racking out to six straight wins to open the season against a less than formidable schedule left some people doubting how good the San Francisco 49ers actually are. Blowing out a Carolina team that had won four straight games should quiet some of those critics.

Tevin Coleman scored three of his four touchdowns in the first half, rookie Nick Bosa had three sacks to go along with an acrobatic interception and the 49ers remained unbeaten with a victory over Carolina in their high-est-scoring game in 26 years.

"It doesn't really matter what the outside world thinks," said cornerback Richard Sherman, who had an interception. "We know what we have in this building. The same thing we've said since training camp, we'll continue to say. We knew the talent we have, we just have to execute and focus on us and let the chips fall where they may."

The Niners (7-0) are off to their best start since winning their first 10 games in 1990 and now have a second win against a team with a winning record thanks to a complete performance against the Panthers (4-3).

Jimmy Garoppolo and the offense had little trouble carving Carolina's defense with 232 yards rushing and a pair of touchdown passes for San Francisco's most prolific offensive game since beating Detroit 55-17 on Dec. 19, 1993. The Niners' stellar defense did the rest.

San Francisco intercepted three passes from Kyle Allen, who came into the game with no interceptions on 153 career attempts while winning four starts in place of injured starter Cam Newton. They also had seven sacks, with Bosa getting three of them to go along with his leaping interception and 46-yard return on the play of the third quarter.

49ers 51, Panthers 13

Carolina	0	13	6	7-26
San Francisco	14	19	10	0-13

—SF—Sanders 54-yard pass from Garoppolo (Gould kick). 9:51.

First Quarter

Car—FG Slayton 41 (Prater kick). 4:23.

Second Quarter

SF—Coleman 10-yard pass from Garoppolo (Gould kick). 12:42.

Third Quarter

Car—Safety, 12:43.

Car—McCaffrey 40-yard run (McCaffrey kick). 11:11.

Fourth Quarter

SF—D'Samuエル 20, 12:52.

Fifth Quarter

SF—Mostert 41-yard run (Gould kick). 6:16.

A-69.083.

Car SF Det

First downs	23	24	1
Total Net Yards	370	375	375
Rushes-Yards	24-80	25-59	25-59
Passes-Yards	20-29	24-66	24-66
Passing-Yards	100	156	156

Punt Returns

Kickoffs Returns

Interceptions Ret.

Comp-Att-Int

Sacked-Yards Lost

Penalties-Yards

Time of Possession

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Carolina, Allen 19-37, Barkley 14-17, Scarlett 4-9, Bonham 1-4, San Francisco

Car—Coleman 11-105, Mostert 9-60, Breida 1-5, D'Samuエル 18-49, Dobbins 28-41-0,

Passing—Carolina

Dobbs 14-46, McCaffrey 4-13, Olsen 5-38,

RECEIVING—Carolina

Dobbs 1-46, McCaffrey 4-13, Olsen 5-38,

Carolina

Prater 1-17, Johnson 2-19, Wilson 2-6, Mullens 1-5, Minns 3-13.

PASSING—Carolina

Allen 13-37, Barkley 18-37, Scarlett 18-41-0,

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NFL

Perfect Pats top Browns in Belichick's 300th win

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Bill Belichick was 39 years old when he coached the Cleveland Browns to a win over the New England Patriots in 1991 — his first as an NFL coach.

As Belichick trotted toward the center of the field Sunday, his trademark cutoff hooded sweatshirt soaked in rain following the Patriots' 27-13 win over the Browns, he did so as a member of a small, but elite group of coaches.

Tom Brady threw for 259 yards and two touchdown passes to help Belichick earn his 300th career victory in the Patriots' win.

Belichick sits behind only Don Shula (347) and George Halas (324) on the NFL's all-time list.

"Fortunately I didn't play in any of those games," Belichick said. "I was a part of those, but honestly, players win games in this league and I've been fortunate to coach a lot of great ones."

The Patriots improved to 8-0 for the third time in team history and the first since 2015, when they started 10-0. The Browns have lost three straight games.

Brady completed 20 of 36 passes, hitting Julian Edelman on eight of them for 78 yards and both TDs.

New England capitalized on three first-quarter turnovers by Cleveland to take a 17-0 lead.

Eagles snap skid, beat Bills

Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Lane Johnson isn't sure what the Eagles proved except to silence their critics for one week after their run game and defense trampled the Buffalo Bills.

"What are we, 4-4? It looks like we're average," the starting right tackle said, injecting a profanity into his comment for emphasis. "We needed a damn win. That's really what it all boiled down to. It felt good to get one."

Having spent the past week listening to how awful and soft they were following a 37-10 loss at Dallas, the Eagles responded by snapping a two-game skid with a 31-13 win on the road and against a Bills team that dropped to 5-2.

Rookie Miles Sanders scored on a 65-yard run, one of Philadelphia's three touchdowns rushing on a wet and windy afternoon in which the Eagles finished with 213 yards rushing.

Linebacker Brandon Graham keyed a stifling defensive effort by forcing and recovering a fumble, while adding one of Philadelphia's four sacks.

"It was a lot of stuff that tried to distract us from this game this week. There was a lot of things we were still trying to answer for," Graham said, referring to former cornerback Orlando Scandrick questioning the team's leadership after being released on Monday. "Everybody knows our stuff whatever it is, so let's go out and change the way people view us."

Patriots 27, Browns 13

Cleveland	17	0	3	2	—	2
New England	17	0	3	2	—	2

First Quarter

NE—F Nugent 36 yd, Brady (Nu-
gent kick), 5:45.

Second Quarter

Cle—DeHaven 21 pass from Mayfield
(Seibert kick), 7:44.

Third Quarter

Cle—FG Seibert 37.

Fourth Quarter

NE—F Nugent 29, 7:43.

Cle—FG Seibert 47, 2:33.

A—3:57.

First downs	15	15	NE
Total Net Yards	310	318	
Rushes-Yards	22-159	27-79	
Passing	159	238	
Punt Returns	2-2	1-18	
Kickoff Returns	2-46	2-42	
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0	
Comp-Att-Int	20-54	20-50	
Yards	304	300	
Sacked-Yards Lost	5-43	3-20	
Turnovers	4-44.5	5-45.5	
Fumbles-Lost	3-0	3-0	
Penalties-Yards	13-35	4-32	
Time of Possession	32:00	32:00	

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Cleveland, Chubb 20-131, Michel 11-41, Mayfield 1-1, Michel 21-74, White 2-4, Burkhead 3-4, Edelman 1-(minus 3).

PASSING—Cleveland, Mayfield 20-31-1, 313 yds, Brady 36-36-0, 259.

RECEIVING—Cleveland, Landry 5-65, Beasley 4-43, Mayfield 4-42, Diggs 2-33, Callaway 2-11, Chubb 1-1, Higgins 1-2, New England, Edelman 8-78, White 4-73, Parris 2-23, Cook 2-23, Watson 1-2, Burkhead 1-9, Myers 1-2.

MISSSED FIELD GOALS—New England, Nugent 34.

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RECEIVING—Cleveland, Landry 5-65, Beasley 4-43, Mayfield 4-42, Diggs 2-33, Callaway 2-11, Chubb 1-1, Higgins 1-2, New England, Edelman 8-78, White 4-73, Parris 2-23, Watson 1-2, Burkhead 1-9, Myers 1-2.

MISSSED FIELD GOALS—New England, Nugent 34.

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WORLD SERIES

Game 1

Tuesday, Oct. 22
at Houston
Nationals 5,
Astros 4
WP-Scherzer
LP-Cole

Game 2

Wednesday, Oct. 23
at Houston
Nationals 12,
Astros 3
WP-Strasburg
LP-Verlander

Game 3

Friday
at Washington
Astros 4
Nationals 1,
WP-James
LP-Sanchez

Game 4

Saturday
at Washington
Astros 8
Nationals 1,
WP-Urquidy
LP-Corbin

Game 5

Sunday
at Washington
Astros 7
Nationals 1,
WP-Cole
LP-Ross

Game 6

Tuesday
at Houston
AFN-Sports
1 a.m. Wednesday
CET; 9 a.m. JKT

Game 7

if necessary
Wednesday
at Houston
AFN-Sports
1 a.m. Thursday CET;
9 a.m. JKT

Houston ace Verlander gets shot at redemption

Astros have full confidence in 36-year-old right-hander

By HOWARD FENDRICH

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — George Springer shook his head at the mere mention of Houston Astros teammate Justin Verlander's past October trouble, the only pitcher in baseball history to go 0-5 in the World Series.

"We wouldn't be here without him," Springer declared. "I don't care what individual stats say."

Then, as if to emphasize the point, the Astros outfielder repeated himself: "We wouldn't be here without him. So I'm glad that we're handing the ball to him. We'll see what happens."

Verlander will get a chance to make people forget his postseason struggles, including losses in win-and-advance games in this year's AL Division Series and Championship Series, if he can help Houston clinch a second championship in three years.

36-year-old right-hander will start Game 6 at home against Stephen Strasburg and the Washington Nationals on Tuesday night.

"He's prepared. He's ready for this moment. We've been communicating back and forth throughout the whole series on how we were going to make an adjustment to what we were seeing and how we were going to attack," said Gerrit Cole, Verlander's rotation-mate and chief AL Cy Young Award competition this season.

"It's going to be business as usual for



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Astros starting pitcher Justin Verlander will get another chance at his first World Series win when he takes the mound in Houston on Tuesday.

him. He's going to set the tone for us," Cole said. "Hopefully we can back him up with some runs, and play some great 'D.'"

Cole gave up just one run in seven innings and struck out nine as the Astros grabbed a 3-2 series lead Sunday night by beating the NL wild-card Nationals 7-1.

Springer, Carlos Correa and rookie Yordan Alvarez all delivered two-run homers — celebrated with elaborate handshakes and hearty hugs — for the team that led the majors with 107 wins this season.

The hootin' and hollerin' carried on in

the mini-cafeteria in the visiting clubhouse at Nationals Park.

It's really been rousing to be on the road so far: Only two other times in baseball history did the home team fail to win any of the first five games of a World Series.

The Nationals won the first two games in Houston by a combined score of 17-7, before the Astros switched everything around and took all three games in Washington by a total tally of 19-3.

The Nationals entered the weekend having won 18 of 20 games, which was the best

By the numbers

0-5

Astros pitcher Justin Verlander's record in the World Series, including a 12-3 loss in Game 2.

SOURCE: Associated Press

streak the team had posted since moving from Montreal to Washington in 2005. Then they went 0-3 at home.

"We're just going back there," Nationals outfielder Juan Soto said, "trying to do the same thing we did before."

Now comes Monday's break in the best-of-seven series, before Houston asks Verlander to try to end the World Series.

Verlander has not been pitching up to the high standards he established while winning 225 games, collecting 2011 AL Cy Young and MVP honors and earning eight All-Star selections.

After going 21-6 with a 3.58 ERA and 300 Ks during the regular season, this is what he's done in five postseason starts in 2019: 1-3, 4.15 ERA, 35 strikeouts, 11 walks.

That includes a 1-3 loss in Game 2, also while facing Strasburg.

Strasburg, meanwhile, truly has been at his best this postseason, frequently relying on his seemingly unhittable changeup or his right-where-he-wants-it curveball or his pitches, rather than the high-90s mph fastball he thrived with in earlier times.

The 31-year-old righty has a 4-0 record, 1.82 ERA, 40 strikeouts and just two walks in five appearances this month, four as a starter.



Strasburg

36-year-old right-hander will start Game 6 at home against Stephen Strasburg and the Washington Nationals on Tuesday night.

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"It's going to be business as usual for



Jeff Roberson/AP

The Nationals' Victor Robles reacts after striking out during the sixth inning of Game 5 on Sunday in Washington.

Control: Astros head home after 3 straight wins in Washington

FROM BACK PAGE

George Springer added another postseason drive for the Astros, who led the majors with a franchise-best 107 wins during the regular season.

"We actually hit some balls hard. We really did," Washington manager Dave Martinez said. "We just can't get nothing going these last three days."

With the road team winning every time so far, Houston heads home with two chances to claim its second title in three years. Justin Verlander gets the first try when he starts against Stephen Strasburg in Game 6 on Tuesday. "High level of confidence," Cole said.

Cole threw three-hit ball for seven innings, nicked only by Juan Soto's home run in the seventh, and struck out nine — eight on breaking balls.

Cole's mix of 99 mph heat and sharp secondary pitches induced

a bevy of bad swings from the wild-card Nats as he improved to 4-1 with a 1.72 ERA this postseason. It might've been his final start for Houston — he's eligible for free agency and figures to command a steep price.

Standing tall on the mound, Cole was unfappable in the face of 43,910 fans who went from fired up to flat-out frustrated.

"He knew what this game meant to this Series," Hinch said. "So, nobody better have on the mound."

The crowd gave Ross a huge ovation when he walked onto the field for warmups, sympathetic to his situation — he had pitched a total of two innings in almost a month.

But when President Donald Trump was shown watching from a lower-level suite on the videoboard for about 10 seconds before the fourth inning, fans let loose with boos and a brief but au-

Sunday Astros 7, Nationals 1

Houston Washington

	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Springer cf	3	2	2	0	Turner ss	0	0	0
Ramirez 2b	3	0	1	0	Rendon 3b	4	0	0
Bryant lf	3	0	0	0	Soto lf	1	1	2
Bregman 3b	4	0	0	0	Rendon 3b	3	2	3
Alvarez lf	3	2	3	2	Zimmin dh	2	0	0
Mrsnick cr-f	1	0	0	0	Hudson p	0	0	0
Maldonado c	3	1	1	0	Robles cf	0	0	0
Cole p	3	0	0	0	Gomes c	3	0	1
Springer ph	0	0	0	0	Bailey p	0	0	0
Pressly p	0	0	0	0	Bailey ph	1	0	0
Total	34	7	10	7	Doolittle p	0	0	0
Houston	020	020	000	012-7	Ramirez 2b	0	0	0
Washington	000	000	000	000	Alvarez lf	1	1	2
DP-Houston 1, Washington 3, LOB-7					Correa 1b	2	1	2
Houston 4, Washington 4, 2B-Springer (2), RR-Alvarez (1), Correa (1), Springer (2), Soto (2)					Pressly p	0	0	0

IP H R ER BB SO

Houston Cole, W-1 7 3 1 0 2 9

With 1 0 0 0 0 1

Pressly 1 0 0 0 0 0

Washington Springer 1 0 0 0 0 0

Rainey 1 0 0 0 0 0

Doolittle 1 0 0 0 0 1 1

Hudson 1 0 0 0 0 1 1

Correa 1 0 0 0 0 0 0

Soto 1 0 0 0 0 0 0

WP-Ross. T-3:19. A-43,910 (41,313).

dible chant of "Lock him up!"

The fans weren't done, either.

Cole ended his outing by getting Victor Robles on a called third strike, a pitch the TV zone showed to be off the plate. Robles cracked his bat, and the crowd soon began a derisive chant at umpire Lance Barksdale.

"I know there were some choice words but that's just in the heat of the moment," Martinez said.

Cole acknowledged he finished his outing "with a break."

"It's tough. I think ultimately some of those pitches were off the plate," he said.

Most fans, meanwhile, stayed to the very end.

"They came to support us and really gave us everything they had all the way to the end, all 27 innings. Hats off to them. We apologize that we didn't give them more to celebrate," outfielder Adam Eaton said. "It wasn't that we didn't try."

SPORTS



Winning combination

Rodgers, Jones star for Packers in victory over Chiefs » **NFL, Page 30**

WORLD SERIES



GEOFF BURKE/AP

Astros starting pitcher Gerrit Cole was back to his dominant self after a poor outing in Game 1 of the World Series, throwing three-hit ball for seven innings and striking out nine in Houston's 7-1 Game 5 win on Sunday in Washington. The Astros lead the Nationals 3-2 in the series.

Back in control

Cole, powerful Astros hammer Nats in Game 5

BY BEN WALKER
Associated Press

Gerrit Cole and the Houston Astros went to Washington, hoping to snap out of their funk and bring the World Series back to Minute Maid Park.

Not only are they heading home with more games to play, now they're just one win from another crown.

Handed the ball for what was supposed to be a high-stakes showdown against Max

Scherzer, Cole gave Houston a firm grip on the Series by beating the Nationals 7-1 Sunday night for a 3-2 lead.

Cole looked exactly like the stud who dominated baseball most of

this season, bouncing back from a Game 1 clunker to pitch the Astros to their third straight win.

What a turnaround for his teammates, too — outscored 17-7 overall at home, Houston hammered the Nationals 19-3 in a Washington wipeout.

"We look like ourselves now," Astros manager AJ Hinch said.

Something was definitely missing for the Nationals. Namely, Scherzer.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner beat Cole in the opener, and was the Nats' best hope to slow Houston. But then Scherzer was scratched only 3½ hours before game time because of an irritated nerve near his neck.

Slumping rookie Yordan Alvarez and Carlos Correa each hit an early two-run homer off emergency starter Joe Ross.

SEE CONTROL ON PAGE 31



Game 6 preview inside:

■ Verlander can erase talk of 0-5 World Series record with win Tuesday, Page 31

Woods ties Snead's PGA Tour wins record » Golf, Page 26



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